A DESCRIPTION Of the ISLES of ORKNEY;

By Master JAMES WALLACE, *late Minister of* KIRKWALL, *Published after his Death by his Son.*

To which is added, An Essay concerning the *Thule* of the *Ancients*.

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TO

The Much Honoured

Sir ROBERT SIBBALD

Of KIPPS,

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE, &c.

Honoured Sir,



When this Peece was to be publiſhed, I did not long debate with my ſelf, to whom this Addreſs was to be made; For to whom is the Deſcription of a particular Countrey ſo due, as to one to whom Our Glorious Monarch *Charles* the ſecond, committed the Deſcription of the whole Kingdom. It was in Compliance with your Deſire (when you were Compoſing your *Atlas*) that my Father made this Deſcription, to give you an Account of that Countrey; And I have been bold to publiſh it under Your Protection,

being alſo glad of ſuch an Opportunitie, to acknowledge how much I am obliged to you, for theſe many Acts of Kindneſs and Favour, which you have undeſervedly beſtowed on me; But ſince all I can ſay, either of the Vaſt Enduements of Your Mind, or of the particular Engagements I ly under to Honour and Serve you, muſt needs fall ſhort of my Senſe of both; And what is juſt to be ſaid, is not fit for me to expreſs, Knowing well how unpleaſant the leaſt appearances of Flattery are to Your Ingenuous Soul; Yet I think it but a peece of Common Juſtice to let the World know the due Reſentments I have of your Extraordinary Favours, and that I wait only for an Opportunity to demonſtrate how much I am

Edinburgh, October 16 1693.

Honoured Sir,
Your very Humble Servant,

JAMES WALLACE.

To the READER.

THE *Author of the following Deſcription of the* Orkney *Iſles, was the Reverend Mr.* James Wallace *Miniſter of* Kirkwall, *the only Town in theſe Iſles; a Man who from his younger years applyed himſelf with great pains, to cultivate his mind with all ſort of Learning, and was a great Proficient therein, eſpeciallie he attained great skill in* Philoſophy, Theology, Hiſtory, *and the* Mathematicks, *which Studies he proſecuted as long as he lived; And deſigned to improve the Talents GOD bountifullie beſtowed upon him, for the good of the Publick: the Care and Diligence he uſed in the Office of the Miniſtrie, his Charitie and Concern for the Souls of thoſe entruſted to him, did gain him not only the Love and Eſteem of thoſe of his own Charge, but even of the whole Countrie, who ſtill conſerve a Honourable Memorie of him; And as a ſpecimen of his other Knowledge, he drew this* Deſcription, *with a large Map of theſe Iſles, both which he ſent ſeveral years before his death to Sir* Robert Sibbald, *(Geographer to King* Charles *the Second of happie Memory)*

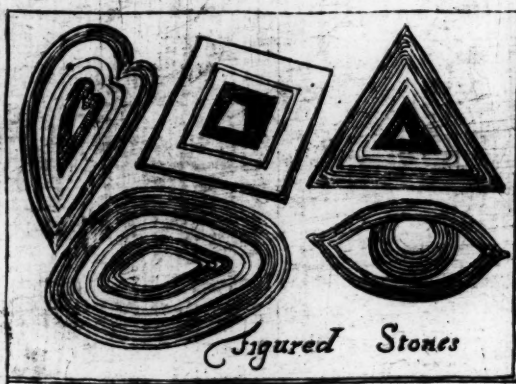
with

with whom he kept a constant correspondence by Letters; Besides the Description then sent several Relations concerning these Isles, are insert in this now published out of these Letters by his Son, who has also brought down the account from the then Writting to his death. He furnished likewise several Memoirs for the Description *of* Zetland, *entertaining a correspondence with the Reverend* Ministers *there; Both he and his Brethren were much encouraged by the Right Reverend* Master Murdoch Mackenzie *Bishop of these Isles; who besides his other good Works, signalized himself in this. The Author designed a compleat Historie of all Remarkable in these Isles, from the first planting of them, and had prepared some materials his Son hath for that work, but was Anno* 1688 *unfortunatelie taken away in a Fever in the flower of his Age, to the regrate of all that knew him. He left behind him in* Manuscripts, *besides Sermons, and manie* Miscellany peeces, *the Harmonie of the* Evangelists *in Folio, two large Quarto's of common Places, extracted, (with his Observations) from what he collected in his Reading; A* Treatise *of the Ancient and Modern Church Discipline; And was writing a Refutation of some* Popish tenets, *when his last sickness seized on him. He was a man remarkable for his Ingenuitie and Veracitie; And in what is now published, wrote nothing but what he had seen himself, or had the testimonie of undoubted Witnesses, who either saw or were well informed of the*

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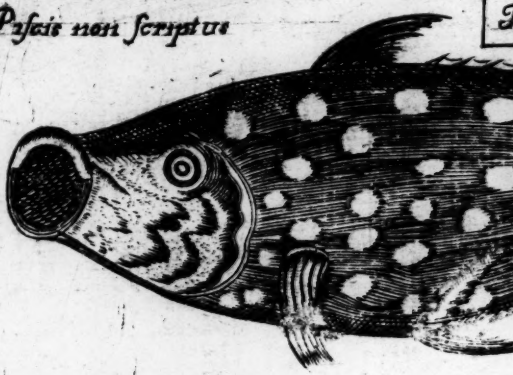
particulars, so that Credit may be given to what is addueed. If this Speeimen be well received by the Publiek, they may expect a full Deseription of the Isles of Zetland, *and of the* West *Isles, and these that ly in* Edinburgh *Firth, with the* Maps *of the most considerable of them. There is adjoined to this* An Essay about the Thule of the Ancients, *Beeause as most Authors agree, it was one of the* British Isles: *So some averr the* Orkney Isles *lay about it; By this some light is given to the Ancient Historie of* Scotland; *And some passages of the* Roman Authors *are explained, and set in better light; All which is submitted to the judgement of the Candid Reader.*

FAREWELL.



Figured Stones

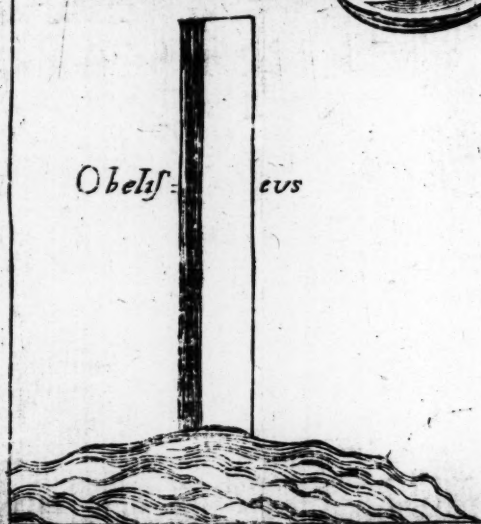
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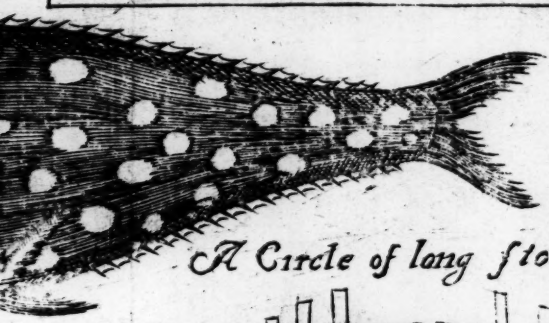




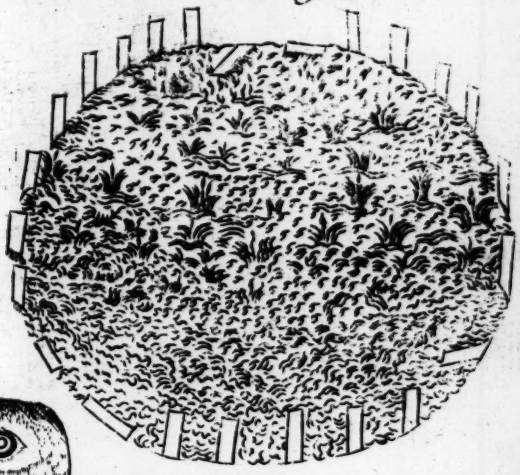
Molocca Beans



Penna Marina



A Circle of long ſtones







Ember Gooſe

THE Description of ORKNEY.

CHAPTER I.

The Nature of the Country, and Chief Products thereof.

THIS Country in Our *English* Language is called *Orkney*; By the *Latines* both Ancient and Modern, it is called *Orcades*, And so it is called by the *Dutch*, but they pronounce the penult long. *Melancthon* writes it with an Aspiration *Orchades*; The *Irish* call it *Arkuy*. What is the reason of the Name is not condescended upon, but its like that the *Latine* name is either from *Orcas*, which *Ptolome* makes to be a Promontorie of *Caithness*, over against this Countrey; or from

some Sept of the *Pights*, who first planted it, and who from some similitude with the name whereby they called themselves, might be so called by the *Romans*. As for the *English* name, *Orkney*, it may be derived from some Pictish Prince, as *Erick*, or *Orkenwald*, of some other that has been famous in the first Plantation, or might have gotten the name from some remarkable title, which the first planters the *Pights* took to themselves; for *Pights* properly signifies in the Teutonick Tongue, Fighters; And *Orkney* may come from *Ear*, which signifies *Honour*, and *Kyn*, which signifies an *Off-spring*, as if the Name were intended to shew that they were an Off-Spring or Generation of Honour: Some derive the word also from *Orkano* or *Horridus*, in regard of the strong, and Impetuous Winds, that some time blow in this Country.

It lyes in the Northern temperate Zone, and thirteenth climate; The longitude being Twenty-two degrees, and Eleven Minutes; and Latitude Fifty-nine degrees two Minutes, the Compass varying Eight degrees; So that the length of the longest day will be Eighteen Hours and some odd Minutes, yet notwithstanding that this Country is so farr removed to the North: The Air is temperate and wholsome, agreeing well with

with these constitutions that can endure a little cold. It is true, that for a great part of *June* it will be so clear at midnight that we may read a Letter in our Chamber: Yet it cannot be true what *Bleau* reports, that from the Hill of *Hoy*, a man may see the Sun at Midnight, for it cannot be the true Body of the Sun that is seen, but only the Image of it Refracted thorow the Sea, or some Watery Cloud about the Horizon, seeing it must be as farr depressed under our Horizon at *June* as it is elevated above it in *December*, which is by many degrees, for from that hill, the Sun is to be seen in the shortest day of *December* above five hours and an half.

The Air and Clouds here, by the Operation of the Sun do sometime generate several things, for Instance some few Years hence some Fisher-men Fishing half a League from Land, over against *Copinshe*, in a fair Day there fell down from the Air a Stone about the bigness of a Foot-Ball, which fell in the midst of the Boat, and Sprung a Lake in it, to the great hazard of the lives of the men that were in it, which could be no other but some substance generated in the Clouds. The Stone was like condensed or Petrified Clay, and was a long time in the Custody of Captain *Andrew Dick*, at that time Stewart of the Country.

Here our Winters are generally more ſubject to Rain than Snow: nor does the Froſt and Snow continue ſo long here as in other parts of *Scotland*; But the Winds in the mean time will often blow very Boyſterouſlie; Sometimes the Rains deſcends not by drops but by Spouts of Water, as if whole Clouds fell down at once. About Four Year ago, after a great thunder in the Moneth of *June*, there fell a great Flake of Ice, more then a Foot thick.

This Countrey is wholly ſurrounded with the Sea, having *Pightland-Firth* on the South, the *Deucaledonian* Ocean on the Weſt, the Sea that divides it from *Zetland* on the North, and the *German* Sea on the Eaſt, *Zetland* ſtands North-Eaſt, and be Eaſt from *Orkney*, and from the Start in *Sanda* to *Swinburgh head*, the moſt Southerlie point in *Zetland*, will be about eighteen Leagues, where there is nothing but Sea all the way ſave *Fair-Iſle*, which lies within eight Leagues of *Swinburgh head*.

Pightland-Firth, which divides this Countrey from *Caithneſs*, is in breadth from *Duncans-bay*, to the neareſt point of *South Ronaldſha* in *Orkney* about twelve Miles, in it are many Tides (to the number of twenty four) which run with ſuch an impetuous current, that a Ship under Sail, is no more

able

able to make way againſt the Tide, then if it were hindered by a *Remora*; which I conceive is the cauſe, why ſome have ſaid that they have found the *Remora* in theſe Seas.

In this Firth, about two Miles from the Coaſt of *Caithneſs* lyes *Stroma*, a little Iſle, but Pleaſant and Fruitful, and becauſe of its Vicinity to *Caithneſs*, and its being ſtill under the Juriſdictions of the Lords of that Countrey, it is not counted as one of the Iſles of *Orkney*. On the North ſide of this Iſle, is a part of the Firth called the *Swelchee* of *Stroma*; And at the Weſt end of it, betwixt it and *Mey* in *Caithneſs*, there is another part of it, called the *Merrie Men of Mey*, both which are very dangerous.

The Sea Ebbs and Flows here as in other places, yet there are ſome *Phænomena*, the Reaſon of which cannot eaſily be found out, as in the Iſle of *Sanda*, it Flows two hours ſooner on the Weſt-ſide, than it does on the Eaſt-ſide; And in *North-Faira* (which lies betwixt *Eda* & *Weſtra*) the Sea Ebbs nine hours and Flows but three. And at *Hammoneſs* in *Sanda*, both Ebb and Flood runs one way, except at the beginning of a quick ſtream, when for two or three hours the Floud runs South.

The Sea here is very Turbulent in a Storm, and as Pleaſant in a Calm. The Tide

Tides are very ſwift and violent, by Reaſon of the multitude of the Iſles and narrowneſs of the Paſſadge: For when all the reſt of the Sea is ſmooth; Theſe Tides carry their Waves and Billows high.

Theſe Tides run with ſuch Violence that they cauſe a contraire motion in the Sea adjoyning to the Land, which they call *Eaſter-birth*, or *Weſter-birth*, according to its courſe: Yet, notwithſtanding of all this Rapidity of theſe Tides and Births, the Inhabitants dayly almoſt Travell from Iſle to Iſle, about their ſeveral Buſineſs, in their little Cockboats.

Whatever the Ancients have written of the number of the Iſles of *Orkney*, its certain they are but twenty ſix at preſent inhabited, *Viz: South Ronalſha, Swinna, Hoy, Burra, Lamholm, Flotta, Faira, Cava, Gramſey, Mainland, Copinſha, Shapinſha, Damſey, Inhallo, Stronſa, Papa Stronſa, Sanda, North Ronalſha, Eda, Rouſa-Wyre, Gairſa, Egleſha, North-Faira, Weſtra, Papa Weſtra.* The reſt of the Iſles are called *Holms*, and are only uſed for paſturage, all of them being ſeparated from one another, by ſome narrow Streights, where you may remark that the moſt of theſe Names end in *A*, or *Ey*, which in the *Teutonick Tongue*, ſignifieth Watter, to ſhew that theſe Iſles are peices of Land ſurrounded with Water.

They

They are of different Natures, some Sandie, some Marish, some abounding in Moss, and some that have none, some Mountanous, and some Plain; Of these some are called the South Isles, and others the North-Isles, and that as they stand to the South or North of the greatest Isle, called the *Mainland.*

South Ronalsha is the Southermost of these Isles, five Mile long, fertile in Corns, and abounding with People. To the South-East ly the *Pightland Skerries* dangerous to Seamen: But to the North is *St. Margarets Hope*, a very safe harbout for Ships, which has no difficulty in comming to it, save a Rock in the midst of the Sownd, betwixt this Isle and *Burra*, called *Lippa*. From *Burwick* in this Isle, is the usual Ferry to *Duncansbay* in *Caithness*.

A little separated from this to the South-west, lyes *Swinna*, a little Ile, and only considerable for a part of *Pightland* Firth, lying a little to the West of it, called the Wells of *Swinna*, which are two Whirl-pools in the Sea (occasioned as it is thought, through some *Hiatus* that is in the Earth below) that turn about with such a Violence, that if any Boat or Ship come within their reach, they will whirl it about and about till it be swallowed up & drown-

ed.

ed. They are only dangerous in a dead calm: For if there be any wind and the Boat under Sail, there is no danger to go over them. If a Boat hapen to come near them in a calm through the force of the Tide, the Boats-men take this way for their preservation, they throw a Barrel, or oar, or any thing that comes next to hand unto the wells, and when it is swallowed up the Sea Remains smooth for a time, for any Boat to pass over.

Beyond this and to the west of South *Ronaldsha*, lyes *Waes* and *Hoy*, (thought to be the *Dumna* of *Plinie*) which are but one Isle, about twelve miles long, full of high Mountains, and but thinly inhabited, unless in *Waes* where the Ground is more pleasant and fertile; from *Snel-setter* there is the other Ferrie from this Country to *Ham* in *Caithnes*. Here are several good Harbours; *Kirk hope*, *North-hope*, *Ore-hope*, and others, but not much frequented.

To the North of *South Ronaldsha*, about a mile lyes *Burra*, a pleasant little Isle, fruitful of Corns, and aboundeth with Rabbets.

Betwixt it and the *Mainland* is *Lambholm*, and to the West, toward *Hoy-mouth*, lyes *Flotta*, *Faira*, *Cava*, *Gramsey*, all of them fruitfull and pleasant Isles, though they be not large.

Next

Next to these is the main Land, called by the Ancients *Pomona* or *Pomonia*, about Twenty-four Miles long, and well inhabited; About the midle of this Isle, looking to the North, stands *Kirkwall*, the only Town in all this Country. There are in it especially four excellent Harbours for Ships; one at *Kirkwall* both large and safe, without any danger, by Shoals or blind Rocks as they come to it, unless they come from the west by *Inhallo* and *Gairsa*; another is at *Deirsound*, which is a great Bay, and a very safe Road for ships having good Anchoring Ground, & capable to give shelter to the greatest Navies; The third is at *Grahamshall*, toward the East side of this Isle, where is a convenient road; but the ship that sails to it from the East, would do well to keep betwixt *Lambholm* and the *Main land*, for the other way betwixt *Lamholm* and *Burra* (which appears to them to be the only open) is very shallow and dangerous, even for small ships. The fourth is at *Kairston*, a small Village at the west end of the *Mainland*, where is a very safe and commodious Harbour, well fenced against all Winds and weathers, by two small *Holms* that stand at the Entry.

To the East of the *Mainland* lyes *Copinsha*, a little Isle but very conspicuous to Sea-men, in which and in several other places of this

Countrey

country are to be found in great plentie, excellent ſtones for the Game called Curling. To the North eaſt of this Iſle is a *Holm* called the Horſe of *Copinſha*.

To the North of the *Mainland*, ly the North Iſles, the firſt of which is *Shapinſha*, betwixt five or ſix mile long, and hath a ſafe harbour for Ships at *Elwick*.

Of an equal bigneſs to that, toward the South-Eaſt lyes *Stronſa*, which hath two convenient Harbours, one at *Lingaſound*, fenced with *Linga-holm*: The other at *Strynie*, fenced with a little pleaſant Iſle to the North of it, called *Papa ſtronſa*.

Beyond theſe toward the North, at a prettie diſtance lyes *Sanda*, of about eleven or twelve miles in length, but very narrow, well ſtored with Corns and Rabbets. It hath two Roads for Ships; one at *Kitle-toft*, guarded by a little Holm, called the *Holm* of *Elſneſs*, the other at *Otterſwick*, guarded by the moſt Northern Iſle in all this Countrey, called *North-Ronalſha*, which is a little Fruitful Iſle, but both it and *Sanda* are deſtitute of Moſs ground, and are forced to bring their Peits, or Turfs, a great way off from the adjacent Iſle *Eda*.

This *Eda* lyeth to the South-Eaſt of *Sanda*, thought to be the *Ocetis* of *Ptolome*, near five miles in length, full of Moſs and Hills, and

and but thinly inhabited, unleſs it be about the skirts of it; It hath a ſafe Road to the North, called *Calf ſound*, guarded by a large Holm, called the *Calf of Eda*, in which there is a good Salt Pan.

Three miles to the Weſt of *Kirkwal*, at the bottom of a large Bay, lyes a little Iſle, called *Damſey*, with a Holm beſides it, as bigg as it ſelf.

To the North North-weſt lyes *Rouſa*, a large Iſle, about ſix miles long, full of Heathery Hills, well ſtored with Plover and Muir-fowl; It is but thinly Inhabited.

Betwixt it and the *Mainland* lyes *Inhalle*, and toward *Kirkwal* lyes *Wyre* and *Gairſa*, ſmall but Profitable Iſles.

North from *Kirkwal* at eight miles diſtance ſtands *Egleſha*, ſomething more then two miles long; But pleaſant & Fertile, having a convenient Road for ſhips betwixt it and *Wyre*; There is in it a little handſome Church, where it is ſaid that *St. Magnus* the Patron of this Country lyes Buried.

Be North *Egliſha* is *Weſtra*, ſeven Miles long, Pleaſant, Fertile, and well Inhabited, it hath a convenient Harbour for ſhips, at *Piriwa*, at the eaſt end of it lyes *Faira*, called for diſtinction *Faira be North*; And to the North and be-Eaſt is *Papa Weſtra*, a pleaſant Iſle, three mile in length, famous for Saint

Saint *Tredwels* Chappel and Loch: of which many things are reported by the Vulgar.

All theſe Iſles are indifferently Fruitful, well ſtored with Fields of Corn, and Herds of Cattel, and abound with Rabbets, but deſtitute of Wheat, Rye, and Peale.

The Chief Products of this Countrey, and which are exported yearly be the Merchant, are, Bear, Malt, Meal, Fiſh, Tallow, Hyds, Stockines, Butter, Selch-skines, Otter-skines, Rabbet-skines, Lamb-skines, White-salt, Scuffs, Writing-Pens, Downs, Feathers, Hams, Wool, *&c.*

CHAP. II.

Of Plants, Animalls, Mettalls and Subſtances, caſt up by the Sea.

THis Countrey abounds with variety both of Field and Garden Plants, Eſpecially Cabbage, Turnipe, Parſnipe, Carrot, Crummock, Artichock, grow to a greater bigneſs here then I have ſeen them elſe where, I have ſeen Strawberies that would be three inch about, ſometimes the Herbs are monſtrouſly fruitful, for out of the flower of a Marigold, I have ſeen twelve more growing; the like I have ſeen in the wild Deaſie. Redcole Valerian, Fox, Gove, Bur-dock, grow wild in ſeveral places, Tormentil grows plentiful in the fields, with the Root of which the common

common People use to bark their Hides.

Here is good store of good Sheep and Cows, which yield much Milk, of which a great quantity of Butter is made, as good as any in *Scotland*; but that which is sold to the Merchant, being their Ferm Butter, they are not at the pains to dight it, and cleanse it, and it is sold for a mean price, and imployed to as mean Uses.

Their Ews are so Fertile, that most of them have two at a Birth, some three, I my self saw one that had four all living and following the Dame. The Sheep usually die of a Disease call'd the *Sheepdead*, which is occasioned by great quantities of little Animals like to Flouks of an inch long, which are engendered in the Liver, I put one of them in a Microscope, and found it like a little Flouk wanting finns.

Their Horses are but little, Yet strong and well mettald, most of which they get from *Zetland*, and are called *Shelties*. There are great herds of Swine, and rich * cuningars almost in every * *warrens* Isle, well stored with Rabbets. Frogs are seen but seldom, yet there are some Toads, though as it is thought they are not poysonous, as indeed there are few poysonous Animalls in all this Countrey. There is a great Snail that hath a bright white stone growing in it.

Many

Many Ottars and Seals are to be had every where, many Spout Whales or Pellacks which sometime run in great numbers upon the shore and are taken.

There is plenty of that Tangle growing on the Rocks, of which in other places is made *Kelp* for the making of Soap.

Here is plenty of Shell-fish, Oisters, Lobsters, Partens, Mussels, Crabs, Cows, or the *Tillinæ*. In many places they get Cockles in such aboundance, that of the Shells a great dale of fine Lime is made, excellent for Plaistering.

There is one Shell-fish of a round figure, the skine above the shell being thick set with prickles, they call them *Ivigars* in Latine *Echinus Marinus*. Upon the Rocks you will find Fishes like Stars with five points, sometime they find living Torroises on the shore, and sometime Tangles full of shells, having Pearls in them, and very oft these pretty *Nutts, of which they use to make Snuff Boxes, there are four sorts of them, the figures of which are set down.

* *Molluca Beans.*

In the Sea they catch Ling, Keeling Haddock, Whitting, Mackrel, Turbot, Scate, Congir eells, Sole Fleuks, sometime they catch Sturgeon.

In the year 1682 in Winter, there was

was taken a strange but beautiful Fish in *Sanda* (where severals of them had been gotten before) It was about an Ell in length, deep breasted, and narrow at the Tail, the Head and Finns and a strok down the Back, were all of a Deep Bodye colour, which made it beautiful to look on, the rest was Mouse coloured, without Scales, having several whitish spots in the body, the Flesh of the half next the Head was like Beef, and of the other half next the Tail, was like Salmond, the Figure of which, as near as I could draw, you have it set down.

Herring seems through these Isles, in great plenty, but they have not the way to catch them; Not many years ago, many Ships from *Fife* frequented this Country for the catching of *Herring*, but the Skippers and Seamen, being at the Battle of *Kilsyth* they were there almost all killed; Since which time that Trade failled; Though the *Hollanders* fail not to keep it up to their great advantage; Sometimes strange Fishes are cast a Shore, to which the people give as strange names. I my self saw one like a Goose Feather, the body being like the quil, & the tail like the feather of a Redish Colour, whereof you have the Figure set down. This seems to be the same which *Gesner* calls *Penna Marina Sitardi*: As for that strange sleeping Fish that *Boetbius* mentions in his discription of this Country, I could never hear of it. Here

Here is plenty both of wild and tame Fowls, Pull-Fowls, Hens, Dukes, Goose, &c. Plover Muirfowl, Corn-crakes, &c. Dunter-Goose, Claik-Goose, wild-Duke, Solen Goose, Swans, Teal, Ateal, Whaps, &c. There are likewise many Toists and Lyres, both Sea Fowls, very fat and delicious to eat, the Lyer is some what less then a Duke, and biger than a Plover, so fat as you would take it to be all Fat: They Roast it with the Gutts on a Spit, that it may eat the pleasanter (for it hath something of a Fishie taste) and they sprinckle it with Ginger and Vinegar; sometime the Stork-ow and Bittern have been seen in this Country: Here is also the Ember-Goose, of which it is said that they have their Nests, and hatch their Eggs under the Water.

* Kites, Eagle or Earns, and * Gleds are here in plenty, and very hurtfull to the young store. Yea they have been found to seise upon young Children, and carry them a good way off, and there is yet a man alive who was thus carried away by an Eagle (while a Child) to her Nest, but was so speedily by the blessing of GOD, prevented that no harm was done to him. We have a Law that if any kill one of the Eagles or Earns, he is to have a Hen out of every house in the parish, in which it is killed.

Hawks

Hawks and Falcons have their Nests in several places of these Islands, as in the *Noup*, *Swendal* and *Rapnes* in *Westra* at *High berrie* and *Aith-head* in *Waes* at *Braebrake*, *Furcarsdale* and *Rackwick* in *Hoy*, at *Halcro*, *Greenhead* and *Hoeksa* in *South Ronaldsha*, at *Bellibrake* and *Quendal in Rousa*; at *Rousum-head* and *Lamb head* in *Stronsa*, in the *Calf of Eda*, at *Gathip Gultak*, *Mul head* in *Deirness*, *Copinsha*, *Black Craig* of *Stromnes*, *Yeskrabie*, *Birsa*, *Marwick* and *Costahead* in the *Mainland*. The Kings *Faleoner* comes every year, and takes the young, who has twenty pound Sterling in Salarie, and a Hen or Dog out of every House in the Countrey, except some Houses that are priviledged.

There are several Mines of Silver, Tinne, Lead, and perhaps of other Metals, Especially in the *Mainland*, *South Ronalsha*, *Hoy*, *Stronsa*, *Sanda*, but neglected or not improven through poverty or carelessness.

A great dale of Marle is found, Especially in the *Mainland*, of which the Husbandman makes good Use. In many Places are Quarries of excellent free stone, gray & red, and Sklate. Not far from *Birsa* at *Buckquoy* and *Swinna*, are to be found some Veins of Marble and Alabaster.

Sometimes are cast in by the Sea, pieces of Trees & sometime Hogsheads of Wine and

Brandie, all covered over with an innumberable plenty of theſe Creature which they call Cleck-goſe, though I take them to be nothing elſe but a kind of Shell-fiſh (the *Concha Anatifera*) which you may ſee by its Figure.

On the Shore alſo at ſometimes is to be found *Sperma Ceti*, *Ambergreiſe*, water-ſpunges, and a great many of the Camſhells, or *Oſſa Sepiæ*, that the Gold-Smith makes ſo great Uſe of. Alſo that which they call the Crow-Purſe, which is a prettie Work of Nature, when it firſt comes a ſhore, it is of a whitiſh colour, filled with a yellow Liquor; But after it is dryed ſome dayes by the Sun, it is like black-ſatin.

Sometime they find exotick fowls driven in by the wind in time of a Storm: I my ſelf ſaw one that had a long Beak, a large tuft on the head, in the faſhion of a crown, with ſpeckled feathers, pleaſant to behold, which I believe is the *Upupa*.

Some years ſince the day being exceeding ſtormy: there were found before a *Gentlemans* door in *Kirkwall*, ſome diſtance from the ſea, ſeven or eight *Quiths*, (a fiſh about the bigneſs of a Whitting) half alive as if they had been but newly taken, its like the violent wind had heaved them out of the Sea, and when the ſtrength of the blaſt was gone they had fallen in that place.

But

But how violently the wind blows here, and how great is the power of the Sea-break may appear from this, that at *Cantick-head*, or *Osmo head* in *Waes*, there are by the violence of the sea & winds, large stones thrown up from the bottom, a great way above the rock, some so large, that twenty men will but make them move.

CHAP. III.

Of Forrests, Rivers, Lochs, &c. And what Moon causeth High Water.

THere is no Forrest or Wood in all this Country, nor any Trees, except some that are in the Bishops Garden at *Kirkwal*, where are some Ashes and thorn and Plum-Trees; there are besides there and in some other Gentlemens Gardens, some Apple and Cherrie Trees, but they seldome bear fruit that come to any Maturity: Yet it seems there hath been Woods growing in this Country, for in the Mosses they find Trees with their Branches intire of 20 or 30 foot length.

This Country being divided in small Islands, it cannot be expected there should be in it any Rivers, yet there is every where a great many Bourns and torrents, well re-

pleniſhed with Trouts, both ſmall and great ſome of them like to young Salmon.

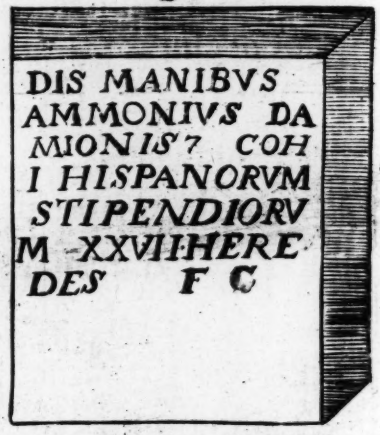
There is a large Loch in the *Mainland*, called the *Loch* of *Stennis*, but unfruitful; Beſide that there are many other ſmall Lochs which ſerve for no other uſe but to afford Water to their Mills and Cattel. There be alſo ſome Lochs that have remarkable propertiesas *St. Tredwels* Loch in *Pape Weſtra*, which they ſay is Medicinal, and of which its ſaid that it will appear like Blood before any diſaſter befall the Royal family.

There is another Loch in *Sapinſha*, of which they ſay if any waſh their feet in it, they will ſtrike out in Bliſters. The Loch of *Swanna* in the *Mainland*, will have in ſome parts a thick ſcumm of Copper Colour upon it, which makes ſome think there is ſome Mine under it.

This Country is moſt commodious for Navigation, there being every where excellent Roads and Bayes and Ports for Shipping, the moſt remarkable of which, I have given an account in the firſt Chapter.

A South-Eaſt and North-Weſt Moon, cauſeth high Watter throughout all this Country.

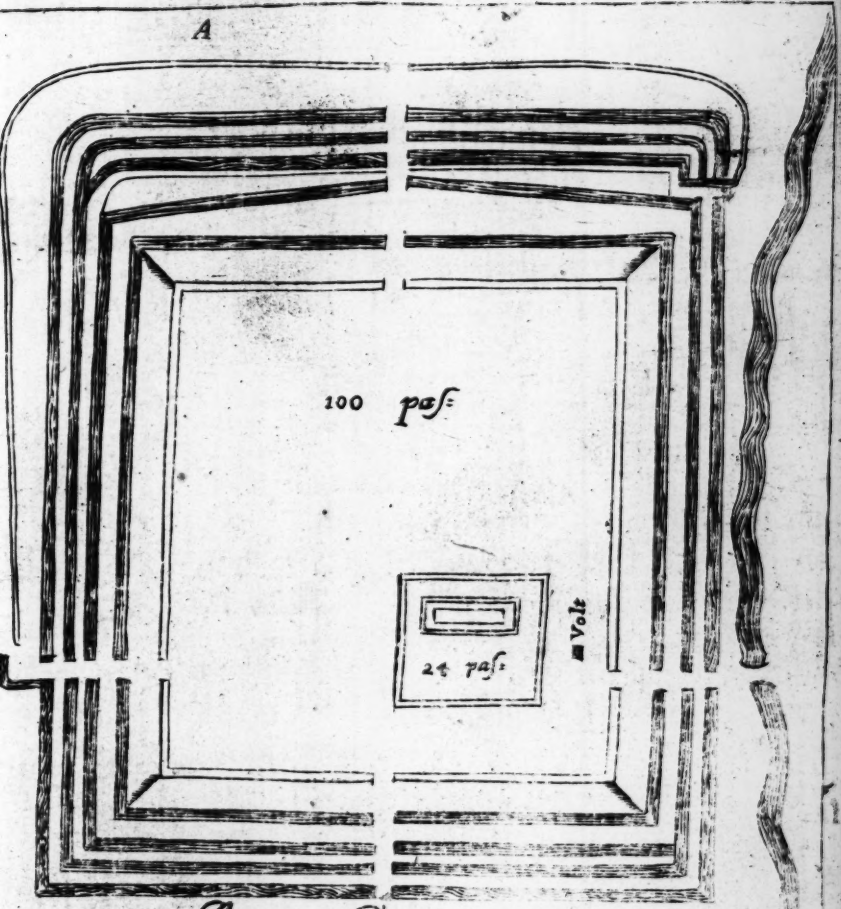
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Roman Camp at Airdoch

CHAP. IV.

The Ancient Monuments and Curiosities of this Countrey.

THere is in *Hoy*, lying betwixt two Hills, a stone called the *Dwarfie stone*, Thirty six Foot long, Eighteen Foot broad, Nine Foot thick; Hollowed within by the hand of some Mason, (for the Prints of the Mason Irons are to be seen on it to this very Hour) with a square hole, of about two foot high for the entry, and a stone proportionable standing before it for the door; Within at one end, is a bed excellently Hewn out of the stone, with a Pillow, wherein Two Men may conveniently ly at their full length, at the other end is a couch, and in the middle a Hearth for a fire, with a round hole cut out above for the chimney.

Its thought to be the residence of some melancholy Hermite but the Vulgar Legend sayes, there was once a famous Giant Residing in that Isle, who with his Wife lived in that same stone as their Castle.

At the West end of that stone stands an exceeding high Mountain of a step ascent, called the *Wart Hill* of *Hoy* near the top of which in the Moneth of *May*, *June*, and *July*, about mid-day, is seen something that shines

and

and ſparkles admirablie, and which will be ſeen a great way off. It hath ſhined more brightly before than it does now; But what that is, though many have climbed up the Hill, and attempted to ſearch for it, yet they could find nothing. The Vulgar talks of it as ſome inchanted Carbuncle; But I rather take it to be ſome Water ſliding down the face of a ſmooth Rock, which when the Sun at ſuch a time ſhines upon, the Reflection cauſeth that admirable ſplendor.

At *Stennis* where the Loch is narroweſt in the midle, having a Cauſey of ſtones over it for a Bridge, there is at the ſouth end of the Bridge, a round ſet about with high ſmooth ſtones or Flaggs (without any engraving, about twenty foot high above ground, ſix foot broad, and a foot or two thick. Betwixt that Round and the Bridge, are two ſtones ſtanding of that ſame largneſs with the reſt, whereof one hath a round hole in the midſt of it. And at the other end of the Bridge, about half a mile removed from it, is a larger Round, about a hundred and ten Paces diameter, ſet about with ſuch ſtones as the former, ſave that ſome of them are fallen down; And at both Eaſt and Weſt of this bigger Round, are two Artificial (as is thought) Green Mounts,

Both

Both these Rounds are ditched about, and for the satisfaction of the Reader, I have here set down the figure of the greater.

Some conceive that these Rounds have been places wherein two opposite Armies Encamped; But others more probably think that they were the High-Places in the *Pagan Times*, whereon Sacrifice were offered, and that these two Mounts were the places where the Ashes of the Sacrifices were flung. And this is the more probable, because *Boethius*, in the Life of *Mainus* K: of *Scots*, makes mention of that kind of high stones, calling them the Temples of the Gods. His words are these "In memorie of what King "*Mainus* ordained anent the worship of the "Gods, there remains yet in our dayes "many huge stones drawn together in "form of a Circle, named by the People, "The Ancient Temples of the Gods, and "it is no small admiration to consider by "what Art or strength so huge stones have "have been brought together.

You will find besides in many other places of this country *Obelisks*, or huge high stones set in the ground like the former, and standing a part (and indeed they are so large that none sees them, but wonders by what Engines they have been erected) which are thought to be set up either as a memorial

of

of some famous Battle, or as a monumen of some remarkable Person, that has been buried there, that way of honouring, deserving and Valiant men, being the Invention of King *Reutha*, as *Boethius* sayes.

There is in *Rousay*, betwixt high mountains a place called the *Camps* of *Jupiter Fring*. The name is strange, and would import some Notable Accident, but what it was I could not learn.

At the West end of the *Mainland* near *Skeall* on the top of high Rocks, above a quarter of a Mile in length, there is something like a street all set in Red Clay with a sort of rediſh stones, of severall figures and magnitudes, having the Images & representations of several things as it were engraven upon them, & which is very strange, most of these stones when they are raised up, have that same Image engraven under which they had above. That they are so figured by Art is not probable, nor can the reason of Natures-way in their engenraving be readily given, you have a specimen of their figures.

In the Links of *Skeall*, where sand is blown away with the wind, are found several places built four square, about a foot square, with stones about well Cemented together, and a stone lying in the mouth, having some black earth in them. The like of which also are found in the Links of

Rousum

Rouſum in *Stronſa*, where alſo is fownd this remarkable monument; the figure of which you have ſet down. It is a whole round ſtone like a barrel, hollow within, ſharp edged at the top, having the bottom joyned like the bottom of a barrel, on the mouth was a round ſtone, conform to the mouth of the monumnt, and above that a large ſtone for the preſervation of the whole; Within was nothing but red Clay, and burnt Bones, which *I* ſent to Sir *Robert Sibbald*, to whom alſo I thought to have ſent the whole monument, had it not broken in peeces as they were taking it from its ſeat. Its like that this as alſo the other four ſquare monuments have been ſome of theſe ancient Urns, wher in the *Romans*, when they were in this Country, laid up the aſhes of their dead.

Likewiſe in the links of *Tronabie* in *Weſtra*, haye been found graves in the ſand, (after the ſand hath been blown away with the wind) in one of which was ſeen a man lying with his ſword on the one hand, and a *Daneiſh* ax on the other, and others that have had dogs, and combs and knives buried with them; which ſeems to be an inſtance of the way how the *Danes* (when they were in this Country) buried their dead as the former was of the *Romans*. Beſide in many places of the Countrey are found little *Hillocks*, which may be ſuppoſed to be the Sepulchers

pulchres of the ancient *Pights*: For *Tacitus* tells that it was the way of the ancient *Romans* and *Verstegan*, that it was the way of the ancient *Germans* and *Saxons* to lay dead Bodies on the ground, and cover them over with Turffs and clods of Earth, in the fashion of a *little Hillock*; hence it seems that the many Houses and villages in this Countey which are called by the name of *Brogh*, and which all of them are built upon, or beside some such *Hillock*, have been cemeteries for the burying of the dead in the time of the *Pights* and *Saxons*: For the word *Brogh* in the *Teutonick* Language, signifies a burying place.

In one of these *Hillocks* near the Circle of high stones at the North end of the Bridge of *Stennis*, there were found nine *Pibuts* of silver, of the shape of a Horse shoe, but round, the figure of which we have given.

Moreover in many places of this Country are to be seen the ruins and vestiges of great but antique buildings: most of them now covered over with Earth, and called *Pights Houses*, some of which its like have been the Forts and residences of the *Pights* or *Danes* when they possessed this Countrey.

Among the rest there is one in the Isle of *Wyre*, called the Castle of *Cubberow* (or rather *Coppirow*, which in the *Teutonick* Language

guage, signifies a tower of security from outward violence) It is trenched about, of it nothing now remains, but the first house hight; It is a perfect square: the Wall being eight Foot thick, strongly Built and cemented with Lime. The breadth or length within walls not being above ten Foot, having a large door and a small slit for the Window Of this *Cubbirow*, the common people report many idle fables, not fit to be inserted here.

In the Parish of *Evie*, near the Sea, are some small *Hillocks*, which frequently in the Night time, appear all in a fire; likewayes the Kirk of *Evie* called St. *Nicholas*, is seen full of light, as if torches or candles were burning in it all night: This amazes the people greatly, but possible it is nothing else but some thick glutinous Meteor that receives that light in the Night time.

At the *Noup-head* in *Westra* is a Rock surrounded with the *Sea*, called *Less*, which the inhabitants of that Isle say, has this strange propertie, that if a man go upon it, having any Iron upon him (If it were an Iron Nail in his shoe) the Sea will instantly swell in such a tempestuous way, that no boat can come near to take him off, and that the *Sea* will not be settled till the peece of Iron be flung unto it. I being there to make an experiment of it, offered a shilling

to

to a poor Fellow to go upon the Rock with a peece of Iron, but he would not do it on any tearms.

Sometime about this Country are seen these Men which are called *Finnmen*; In the year 1682, one was seen sometime sailing, sometime Rowing up and down in his little Boat at the south end of the *Isle* of *Eda*, most of the people of the Isle flocked to see him, and when they adventured to put out a Boat with men to see if they could apprehend him, he presently fled away most swiftly: And in the Year 1684, another was seen from *Westra*, and for a while after they got few or no Fishes; for they have this Remark here, that these *Finnmen* drive away the fishes from the place to which they come. These *Finnmen* seem to be some of these people that dwell about the *Fretum Davis*, a full account of whom may be seen in the natural & moral History of the *Antilles*, Chap. 18. One of their Boats sent from *Orkney* to *Edinburgh* is to be seen in the Physitians hall with the Oar and the Dart he makes use of for killing Fish.

CHAP

CHAP. V.

The Peculiar Cuſtomes, Manners, and Diſpoſitions of the Inhabitants of this Countrey.

THe People here are generally Civil, ſagacious, Circumſpect, and Piouſly Inclined. Though *Boethius* reports them to be great Drunkards, and *Maginus* ſayes of them "*Quod ſunt bibaciſſimi nunc quam tamen inebriantur*; Yet now it is not ſoo: For though they uſe ſtrong Ale and Beer (the nature of the Climate requiring ſtrong Liquor) yet generally they are ſober and Temperate, but withal much given to Hoſpitality and Feaſting, very Civil and Liberal in their Entertaining of Strangers, and much inclined to ſpeake badly of theſe that are Peeviſhly or Niggardly diſpoſed.

Buchannan tells a ſtory, which is ſtill believed here, and talked of as a Truth, That in *Scapa* (a place about a Mile from *Kirkwal* to the South) there was keept a large Cupp, which when any new Biſhop Landed there, they filled with ſtrong Ale, and offered it to him to drink, and if he happened to drink it off Cheerfully, they promiſed to themſelves a Noble Biſhop; and many good years in his time.

In

In many Places the Landlord has his Tennant bound to give him and his followers a Liberal Entertainment once a year, especially at *Christmas* (at which time the people of this Countrey are generally inclined to Feasting) and the Tennant will not fail to have good Victuals and strong Ale (which they call *Bummocks*) in readiness, and will be much offended, if the Landlord refuse to make merry with them.

The People are generally personable and Comelie *Polyd. Virgil* sayes of them, "*Quod statura sunt procerâ semper sano corpore pariter atque mente, quo fit ut multo longissimam degant ætatem, etsi piscibus ut plurimum victitant.*" The Women are Lovely, and of a Beautiful Countenance, and are very Broodie and apt for Generation, one *Marjorie Bimbister* in the Parish of *Evie*, was in the year 1683, brought to bed of a Male Child in the sixtie third year of her Age, as you may see by the following Attestation.

"We Under Subscrivers, Testifie and "Declare, that *Marjorie Bimbister* in the "Parish of *Evie* in *Orkney*, was in *September* "1683, untimeously delivered of a Male "Child, though we have no sure account "of her Age in our Register of Baptism, "yet many of the Parish, who are of sixty "four years, and whole Age is certainly

known

" known, report that to their Knowledge
" she is as Old as they: Besides her self re-
" members, that in the year 1631 (which
" was a year of Famine in this Countrey,
" and from which the common people
" usually rekon) she was keeping Cattle,
" being then a Girle as she thought, about
" nine or ten years of Age. In the year
" 1660, she was married to *Adam Hourie*,
" to whom about five years after (viz. *Anno*
" 1665) she had a Child, from which time
" she was barren till *September* 1683, when
" she was delivered of a Male Child, as is
" said, at which time its probably thought,
" both by her Neighbours and neatest Re-
" lations, that she was at least about sixty
" two, or sixty three years.

Sic Subscribitur,

Ja. Grahame Minister.

Will. Ballenden.

Edward Sinclar Clerk.

Will. Halero.

The Gentrie and these that are of any Quality, both Men and Women, love to go Fine, and be in the fashion. The Husband men and their servants many of them use

ule Hatts and Cloaks, and make no uſe o
Plaids as in otherplaces.

By reaſon of the Temperance of thei
Dyet, and wholeſomeneſs of the Air, th
People uſually Live to a good Age. A Ma
in the Pariſh of *Ham*, died not many yea
ſince, who had Lived upwards of fourſcor
years with his Wife in a Married eſtate
There is alſo a Gentleman yet living i
Stronſo, who was begotten of his Father whe
he was a hundred years of age, and di
live till he ſaw this ſame mans Children.
Some there be alſo of an exceeding high ſt
aure, as that yonng man who for his heigh
was uſually called the *Meikle Man of Waes*, a
being a great deal highet then the com
mon ſort of Men. At the Chappel of *Cle*
in *Sanda* is a Grave to be ſeen, wherein they
ſay a Giant was buried, and indeed the
ſtone that is laid upon the Grave will be a
bove twelve foot long, ſo that if the Body
has been proportionable to the Grave, it
has been exceeding monſtruous.

The more common and general Diſeaſe
here are the Scurvy, Agues, Conſumptions
&c. There are ſome poor Men in the Coun
trey, that have great skill to cure any com
mon ſore or ſickneſs. In ſtead of a Cup
ping Glaſs they have a Horn with a ſmal
thinn skin at the leſſer end; The way how
they

they use it is thus, The Physician with the point of his Knife gives three or four small cutts or gashes on the place where he purposes to set the Horn, and having set the broadest end on the wounds, he sucks the small end a little, and then lets it stand, till the abundance of blood that it draws make it fall off. Some have a way (if they be to cure any akeing or inward pain in any part of the Body) to draw out several little Worms out of the part affected, (whereof I had occasion to see some) whereby they remove the pain: Others there be also that use Charms for the curing the *Heart-ake* and *Rickets*, but these are much curbed by the careful industry of our pious Ministers.

All speak *English* with a good Accent, only some of the common People among themselves speak *Norse* or the old *Gottish Language*, which they have derived to them, either from the *Pights*, who first Peopled this Countrey, or from the *Danes* and *Norwegians*, in whose possession it once was.

Anciently, as they are yet in great measure, they were much given to Superstition, as appears by the many Chapels that are dispersed here and there through the Countrey; But the Chapels to which most frequently they made their Pilgrimage, were to the Chapel of the Brough of *Birsa*, and

to the Chapel of the brough at the *Mule-head* in *Deirnes*, theſe two Chapels ſtanding at the furtheſt extremities of the *Mainland* Eaſt and Weſt, nor to this hour are theſe Pilgrimages omitted by the common People, who ſtill for the obtaining of ſome good, or deprecating of ſome evil, do frequent ſome Chapels that they have moſt Veneration for. Beſides they have this general Cuſtome, the day that is dedicat to the Memory of the Saint who is Patrone of the chief Kirk (where Sermon is made) is keept holy by the common People of the whole Pariſh, ſo that they will not work on that Day: And theſe that live next the ſmaller Chapels do moreover keep holy that Day that is dedicated to the Memory of that Saint, that, that Chapel is denominate by.

Here they make no uſe of Poks or Sacks. But a ſort of Veſſel made of Straw, called *Caſſies*, in which they keep, and tranſport their Corn. Nor do they make uſe of Peck and Firlot, but all their Corns are weighed on *Biſmires* or *Pundlers*. The leaſt quantity is called a Merk (which will be Eighteen Ounce) Twentyfout Merk makes a leiſpound or Setten, ſix Settens make a Meil (Equivalent to a Boll) and Eighteen Meils make a Chalder.

In every Iſle they have a *Wart Hill*, which is

is the most Elevated and conspicuous part of the Isle, on which in time of Warr they keep ward, and when they see the Enemies Ships approaching, they put a fire, thereby to give notice to the Adjacent Isles of the Enemies Vicinity, and to advertise them to be on their Guard, or to come to their help, therefore are they called *Wart-Hills*, that is *Ward-Hills*, because on these places in time of Warr they keep ward or Centrie.

Their Corn Land is every where parked, and without these inclosures their Sheep and Swine, and some of their other Beastial go at Random without a herdsman to keep them.

All their Sheep are marked on the ears or Nose, every man that hath Sheep, hath his own mark whereby his Sheep are distinguished from others; and its strange to consider how so many different marks could be invented as are found cut in so little room.

They use to fleece their Sheep about the beginning of *May*, and the way they take to apprehend them (for they go wild) is both strange and delectable. The Bailiff of the Parish, with the * *Law right men*, & the persons to whom the Sheep belong meet together on a day appointed, having with them Sheep dogs, trained up for the Hunting of them, and

* *Bailiffs assessors.*

when they would have ſuch a ſheep caught they point him out by the finger to the dog, whereupon he runs and ſingles out that ſheep from all the flock, and never leaves off runing till he hath apprehended him, which being fleeced or ſhorn by the owner, they then go on to hunt for others.

They have alſo a pleaſant way of taking the Sea Fowls when they are young, as Toiſts, Kittiwiacks, Maws, *&c.* Which Build very thick on ſhelves of high rocks, Under the Rock there is a Boat with men, having a large Net, which at the two uppermoſt corners is faſtned with two long Ropes, which are in the hands of Men, at the top of the Rock, who hoiſe up the Net till it be overagainſt the place where the young Fowls ſit, Then they that are in the Boat under the Rock have a Rattle which makes ſo frighting a noiſe, that all the young Fowls take wing, and fly forward unto the boſom of the Net, where they are preſently caught: Then the Net is laid down in the Boat, and the prey ſeiſed upon, and thus they go from Rock to Rock, taking as many as they can.

Others have this way in taking theſe Fowles, a man that is accuſtomed to the exercile, has a Rop well bound about his middle, with which he is let ſlide down the ſteep

steep Rock, till he be overagainst the place where the young fowls are, of whom he apprehends as many as he is able to carry, and then is Hoised up with his prey; They use that way also in taking the young Hawks.

CHAP. VI.

Of some Accidents that have fallen out in this Countrey.

SEveral Remarkable Accidents have fallen out in this Countrey, beside some already mentioned, and others to be mentioned in the following Chapters. I shall instance in three or four only, whereof the Witnesses are still alive. About the year 1634, when Bishop *Grahame* was Bishop of this Countrey a young boy, named *William Gerioch*, his Father being dead, had some little Land, and some smal portion of Cattle left him by his Father in the Parish of *Ham*, his Uncle took him in his Service, and having a greedy desire after the Young Mans Possessions, it happened that he stole about a Setten of Bear (which will be about twenty eight pound weight) from his Uncle, for which he pursued him before the Sheriff of the Bishoprik: And the Young Man, (at that time about eighteen years of Age) the

Theft

Theft being proven, was ſentenced to be Hanged. When he was upon the Ladder he prayed that GOD would inflict ſome viſible Judgement on his Uncle, who becauſe of the greedie deſire that he had after his little Portion, had for a ſmall matter procured his Death. It came to paſs after, that his Uncle walking through the Churchyard of *Kirkwal* upon the Young Mans Grave, the Biſhops Dogg ſeiſed on him and Tore out his Throat, whereby he became a ſadd Monument of GODS wrath againſt ſuch impious greedy wretches.

Some years ago, one *James Lenay*, with ſome others Fiſhing in a Boat beſide *Auskerrie*, in a fair day it came to paſs, that by their leaning all on one ſide of the Boat, that it overturned and all were drowned except the ſaid *Lenay*, who by providence got up and ſat on the Keil of the Boat, in which Condition he continued for the ſpace of four dayes, driven by the Tides, ſometime this way, ſometime that, ſometimes to *Weſtra* and back again to *Stronſa*, till at laſt he was ſeen floating by *Spurneſs* in *Sanda*, where by the careful endeavour of the Gentleman who was Owner of the Ground he was delivered. A memorable example of GODS Providence in delivering people from almoſt deſperate hazards.

There

There was one *John Smith*, who lived (as I am informed) in *Stronsa*, who with three others used to Fish, not far from Land, their way was to rise early, and stay many hours upon the Sea Fishing. This man having by several dayes Fishing, gotten a great plenty of Fish, his Wife was desirous that he would omitt that Exercise for a time, and stay at home to take his rest. He was unwilling to do so, wherefore nixt morning she rises before him, and being desirous that he might take a longer sleep, after so many dayes Toil, she stoped the hols and windows of the Room where he lay, that he might sleep the more soundly, and then she went to the fields to her work, where working with her servants, she was surprised with this sad Accident. The three men that used to fish with her Husband, because he came not, had taken the Boat themselves and gone a fishing, and suddenly (no Man knows how) the Boat overturned and they all drowned. This, the Woman and her servants seeing startled, them greatly; but though she was grieved for their death, yet was inwardly very glad that her Husband (through her policy) went not to Sea with them, and thereupon runs hastily to the House to acquaint her Husband with that sad Accident, and to Congratulate with him

him for his Preſervation: When opening the door ſhe was ſurpriſed with a more ſadd and aſtoniſhing ſight, even the death of her own Husband: For he having riſen out of his Bed, had fallen with his head in the Veſſel, wherein they uſed to make Urine, where he was choked and found dead. This was a ſadd and ſtrange accident, and may learn us *Quod eſt inevitabile fatum.*

Strange are the effects that are here ſome time produced by thunders, and lightnings, for by it *anno* 1670, our ſteeple was burned, yea and ſometimes it will ſeiſe on low cottages and ſtacks of Corn. In the Year 1680, after a great Thunder in the Moneth of *June*, there fell great flakes of Ice more than a foot thick. And the ſame year the lightning entered a Gentlemans Cow ſtall, where were twelve Cows, ſtanding ſide for ſide, as they uſe to be, and killed every other one, that is, it killed the firſt, and miſſed the ſecond, it killed the third, and miſſed the fourth, and ſo of the reſt, ſo that ſix were killed, and ſix remained alive and untouched.

CHAP VII.

Of the Town of Kirkwall.

THE only remarkeable Town in this Countrey is *Kirkwall*, an Ancient Burrough

Burrough long possessed by the *Danes*, by whom it was called *Craeviaca*, built upon a pleasant Oyse or inlett of the Sea, near the middle of the *Mainland*, near a mile in length, with narrow *Streets*, having a very safe harbour and road for Ships. Here is the seat of Justice, the *Stewart*, *Sheriff*, *Commissary*, all of Them keeping their several Courts in this place, Almost all the houses in it are sklaited, but the most remarkeable Edifices in it, are St. *Magnus* Church and the Bishops Palace. As for the King's Castle, it is now demolished, but by the ruines it appears to have been a strong and stately Fort, and probably built by some of the Bishops of *Orkney*, as would appear from a remarkeable stone set in the midst of the wall that looks towards the Street, which has a Bishops Miter and Arms engraven on it, There is in it a publick School for the teaching of Grammer endued with a competent salarie, And at the North end of the town is a place built by the *English* ditched abou & on which in time of war they plant Cannons for the defence of the harbour against the ships of the Enemy; as it fell out *anno* 1666, when there was warrs between our King and the *Hollanders*, A *Dutch man of war*, coming to the Road, who shot many Guns at the Town, with a design to take away

away ſome of the ſhips that were in the Harbour, was by ſome Cannon from the Mount ſo bruiſed that he was forced to flee with the loſs of many of his men.

This Town had been erected into a Royal Burrow in the time of the *Danes*, and *Anno* 1486 King *James* the third gave them a Charter, confirming their old Erection and Priviledges, ſpecifying their antiquity, and giving them power to hold burrow Courts, to incarcerate and arreſt, to make laws and Ordinances, and to elect their own Magiſtrars yearly for the right Government of the Town, and to have a weekly mercat on *Tueſday* and *Friday*, and three Fairs in the Year, one about *Palm Sunday*, the other at *Lambas*, and the third at *Martinmaſs*, each to continue three days, he moreover diſponed to them ſome lands about the Town with the cuſtoms and ſhore dues, and the power of a Pitt and Gallows, and all other priviledges granted to any Royal Burrow within the Kingdom, exeeming them from ſending any Commiſſioners to Parliament, unleſs their own neceſſities require it. This *Charter* is dated at *Edinburgh*, the laſt of *March*, 1486. and in the year 1526 *February* the 8, King *James* the Fifth Ratified the former *Charter* by a *New Charter* of *Confirmation*. And in the year 1661, King *Charles* after his Reſtauration

Reſtauration, Ratified the former Charters, by a ſigniture under his Royal hand, dated at *Whitehall*, *May* 25, whereupon the Parliament at *Edinburgh* 22 of *Auguſt* 1670: confirmed all by their Act: Yet with this ſpecial proviſion, *That what was granted to them by that Act, might not prejudice the Intereſt of the Biſhop of Orkney.*

The Town is governed by a Provoſt, four Bailiffs, and a common Council, as in other Burtows.

CHAP. VIII.

The ſeveral wayes how Orkney hath been a Honourary Title.

ORKNEY hath been a honourarie Title ſeveral ways to ſeverals, *Belus*, and *Genus*, (as we read in hiſtory) were Kings of *Orkney*, *Henry* and *William Sinclairs*, were ſtiled Princes of *Orkney*, *Bothwel* by Patent was by Queen *Mary*, made Duke of *Orkney*, And the Lords of this Country of the Sirname of *Sinclair*, and *Stewart* were entituled Earls of *Orkney*, and now the preſent Governours of it are ſtiled *Stewarts* of *Orkney*.

CHAP. IX.

The Ancient State of the Church of Orkney.

THE Church of this Country, as alſo that of *Zetland* was under the Government of

of one Bishop, Stiled Bishop of *Orkney* and *Zetland*. The Bishops Revenue was great before, but at present it will not amount to much more then Eight Thousand Merks, Chamberlains and other Officers Fees being payed.

The Cathedral Church is St *Magnus* Church in *Kirkwal*, it was founded (as it's thought) by St. *Magnus* King of *Norroway*, but afterwards greatly enlarged by some of the pious Bishops of that Sea, for Bishop *Stewart* Enlarged it to the East, all above the Grees, and Bishop *Reid* three Pillars to the West. Its as Beautiful and stately a structure as is in the Kingdom, built Crosswayes, for the most part free Stone, standing on pillars all most curiously Vaulted, The three Gates by which they entered into it being Checkerd with Red and white Polished Stones, Embossed and Flowred in a comely way, and the Steeple elevated to a great height (standing on four stately Pillars) in which is a set of as Excellent and sweetly Chym'd Bells as is in any Cathedral in the Kingdom. In the Year 1670, the pyramid of the Steeple being covered with wood was brunt by Thunder; but by the industry of Bishop *Mackenzie*, and liberalitie of some charitable persons, it is again repaired, and the largest Bell (which had

had got a rift by the fall which it got at the burning of the Steeple) is refounded and cast over again in *Holland.*

Beside the Cathedral, there are therty one Churches more in this country, wherein Divine Service is Celebrated: as also, a great many ancient Chapels above an hundred in Number, which shews that this Country was no less Anciently than it is at present addicted to Devotion.

This Dioces, had its several ancient dignities and priviledges for a long time, but these by the constant trouble that this Countrey was in by the change of Masters, being lessened and grown worse; Bishop *Robert Reid* made a new erection and Foundation of the Chapter, *Viz.* Seven dignities, whereof the first was a Provost, to whom under the Bishop the Correction and Amendement of the Canons, Prebends and Chaplins was to belong, he had alotted to him the Prebendary of Holy Trinity and vicaridge of *South Ronaldsha*, with the mantainance of the Kirk of *Burra.* 2. An Arch-Deacon, who was to govern the people according to the disposition of the Canon Law, and to him was alotted the Arch-Deacons ancient Rights, the vicaridge of *Birsa* and Chaplainrie of St. *Ola*, within the Cathedral Kirk of *Kirkwal*, together with the

the maintainance of the Kirk of *Hara*, 3. A Precentor who was to rule the Singers in the Quire, in the Elevation or depression of their Songs, and to him was allotted, the Prebendary of *Orphir* and vicaridge of *Stennis*. 4. A Chancelour, who was to be learned in both Laws, and bound to Read in the Pontifical Law publickly in the Chapter, to all that ought to be present, and to look to the preserving & mending the Books of the Quire, and Register, and to keep the Common Seal and Key of the Library, To him was allotted the Prebendary of *Saint Mary* in *Sanda* and Vicaridge of *Sanda*. 5. A Thesaurer who was to keep the Treasure of the Church and sacred Vestments, and to have a care of the Bread, Wine, Wax, Oyle, and Nourishment for the Lights of the Kirk; To him was allotted the Rectory of St. *Nicholas* in *Stronsa* and Vicaridge of *Stronsa*. 6. A Sub-Dean who was to supply the place of the Provost in his absence, for the amending of the defects of the Chapter, and to exercise the Office of a Butler to the Bishop; To him was allotted the Parsonage of *Hey*, and Vicaridge of *Waes*. 7. A Sub Chantor who was bound to play on the Organs each *Lords-day*, and Festivals, and to supply the place of the Chanter in his absence, to him was aloted the Prebendary of St. *Colme*.

Likewise

Likewise he erected seven other Canons and Prebends, to wit, 1. The Prebend of *Holy Croft*, to him was given the Personage of *Cross kirk* in *Sanda*, he was to be a special Keeper of Holy Things, under the Thesaurer, and was to take care of the Clock, and Ringing of the Bells at Hours appointed, and to take care that the floor of the Kirk was cleanly sweept. 2. The Prebend of St. *Mary*, to whom was given the Chaplainarie of St. *Mary* and Vicaridge of *Evie*, he was to have a care of the Rooff and Windows of the Cathedral, and to have them helped if need were. 3. The Prebend of St. *Magnus* to whom was alotted the Prebendary of St. *Magnus*, he was to be Confessor of the Houseolds of the Bishop, Provost, Canons and Chaplains, and their Servants in the time of *Easter*, and to Administer the *Eucharist* to them. The fourth Prebend was to have the Chaplainarie of St. *John* the Evangellist, in the said Cathedral Kirk. The fifth Prebend, was to have the Chaplainary of St. *Lawrence*. The sixth was to have the Prebendary of St. *Catharine*. And the seventh Prebend was to have the Prebendary of St. *Duthas*. To which seven Dignities and seven Prebendaries, he moreover assigned and allotted (besides the former Kirks and Titles) the Rents and Revenues of the

Per-

Perſonages of St. *Colme* in *Waes*, and *Holy Croſs* in *Weſtra*, as alſo the Vicaridges of the Pariſh Churches of *Sandwiek* and *Stromneſs*, with their Pertinents for their dayly Diſtributions.

Beſides theſe, he erected thirteen Chaplains. To the firſt was allotted the Chaplainrie of St. *Peter*, and he was to be Maſter of the Grammer School. To the ſecond was allotted the Chaplainrie of St. *Auguſtine*, and he was to be Maſter of the Singing-ſchool. The third was to be Stallarius, or the Biſhops Quiriſter. The fourth, the Provoſts Quiriſter. The fifth, the Arch Deacons. The ſixth, the Precenters. The ſeventh, the Chancelours. The eight, the Theaſurers. The ninth, the Sub-deans. The tenth, the Prebends of *Holy-Croſs*. The eleventh, the Prebends of St. *Mary*. The twelveth, the Prebends of St. *Catharine*. The thirteenth, the Chaplains of *Holy-Croſs*. Every one of theſe Quiriſters were to have twenty four Meils of Corn, and ten Merks of Money for their Stipend yearly, beſides their dayly diſtributions, which were to be raiſed from the Rents of the Vicaridge of the Cathedral Kirk, and from the Foundation of *Thomas* Biſhop of *Orkney*, and of the twelve pounds mortified be King *James* the Third, and King *James* the Fourth Kings of *Scotland*.

The

The Office of which Quiriſters was to ſing Maſs Evening and Morning by turns.

To which he added a Sacriſt, who was to ring the Bells and light the Lamps, and carry in Water and Fire to the Church, and to go before the Proceſſion with a white Rod, after the manner of a *Beddle*, and for this he was to have the accuſtomed Revenue together, with fourty ſhilling from the Biſhop yearly.

Moreover, he ordained ſix Boyes, who were to be Taperbearers, and to ſing the Reſponſories and Verſes in the Quire, as they were to be ordered by the Chanter. Of which ſix Boyes, one was to be nominate and maintained by the Biſhop. The ſecond by the Prebend of St. *Magnus*. The third by the Prebend of St. *John*. The fourth by the Prebend of St. *Lawrence*. The fifth by the Prebend of St. *Catharine*. The ſixth by the Prebend of St. *Duthus*. And every one of them beſides their maintainance, was to have twenty ſhilling *Scots* a year.

Moreover, to every one of the foreſaid Dignities, Canons, and Prebends, he aſſigned certain Lands in *Kirkwal* for their Manſions. The Charter of this Erection is dated at *Kirkwal*, *October* 28, *Anno* 1544. And in the following year it was confirmed

by another Charter granted by *David Beaton* Cardinal of St. *Stephen* in Mount *Celio*, Presbyter of the Church of *Rome*, and Arch-Bishop of St. *Andrews*, having Authority so to do. It is dated at *Stirling*, the last of *June* and eleventh year of Pope *Paul* the third, and confirmed by Queen *Mary* at *Edinburgh* the last of *April*, *Anno Regni* 13.

In this Condition the Church continued as long as Popery stood, but the Reformation coming in, and *Robert Stuart* Earl of *Orkney*, having obtained the Bishoprick from Bishop *Bothwel*, by the exchange of the Abbay of *Holy-Rood-House*, became sole Lord of the Countrey, whereupon it came to pass, that he and his Son Earl *Patrick* who succeeded him, did in the Church as they pleased.

At last *James Law* being made Bishop of *Orkney* & the Earldome united to the Crown (by the death and forfeiture of the foresaid *Patrick Stuart*) He with the consent of his Chapter made this Contract with King *James* the sixth, of blessed memorie. In which they Resigne to the King and his Successours, all their Ecclesiastical Lands and possessions, with all Rights and securities belonging thereto, to be incorporate and united to the Crown, especially such as should be thought necessary to be united to

t;

it; And the King gives back and disponed to the Bishop several Lands in the Parishes of *Ham*, *Orphir*, *Stromness*, *Sandwick*, *Shapinsha*, *Waes*, *Hoy* St *Ola*, and of *Evie*, *Burra* and *Flotta* to be a Patrimony to the Bishop and his Successors for ever, disponing moreover, to him and his successors, the right of Patronage to present to all the Vicaridges of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, with power to them to present qualified Ministers as oft as any Kirk should vaike. Disponing also to them the heritable and perpetual Right and jurisdiction of Sheriffeship and Bailliftie within the Bishoprick and Patrimony thereof, exeeming the Inhabitants and Vassals of the Bishoprick in all causes, Civil and Criminal, from the jurisdiction of the Sheriffs and Stewarts of the Earldom. As also, he disponed to the Bishop and his Successors, the Commissariot of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, with power to constitute and ordain Commissars Clerks, and other members of Court; In which contract it was moreover agreed, that the Minister of *South-Ronalsha* Dean, the Minister of *Birsa*, Arch Deacon; the Minister of *Ladie-Kirk* in *Sanda* Chancelor; the Minister of *Stronsa* Thesaurer, and the Parson of *Westra*, should be a sufficient Chapter; And that their consents should be as available for any deed to be done by the Bishops

of *Orkney*, as the fulleſt Chapter of any Cathedral Kirk within the Kingdom. This Contract was made Anno 1614; And in the Year following, by an act of Platt, dated at *Edinburgh* the 22 of *November*, the ſeveral Dignities and Miniſters, both in the Biſhoprick and Earldom, were provided to particular maintainances (beſides what they were in poſſeſſion of before) payable by the King and Biſhop to the Miniſter in their ſeveral bounds reſpective. And as it was agreed upon in that contract, and determined by that act of Platt, ſo are the Miniſters provided at this preſent.

CHAP. X.

Of the Plantation of the Chriſtian Faith in Orkney, *and of the Biſhops thereof.*

Nicephorus writeth that *Simon Zelotes* after he had preached the Goſpel in ſeveral other Kingdomes, came at laſt *Ad Occidentalem oceanum inſulaſq; Britannicas* (by which *Orkney* muſt be eſpecially underſtood,) and there preached the Goſpel. However what ever truth may be in that, yet it is certain that the Chriſtian faith was greatly promoved in this Country about the beginning of the fifth Century (*Engenius*, the ſecond being

being then King of *Scotland*) at which time *Palladius* (being sent by Pope *Celestine* to purge that Kingdom of the Heresie of *Pelagius* that had infected it) he instituted,

1. *Servanus* (called St. *Serf* in the Calendar) Bishop of *Orkney*, that he might instruct the inhabitants of these Isles in the faith of Christ, which *Polyd: Virg:* sayes he did very carefully. He was a man of eminent Devotion and Piety and Master of the famous *Kentigern*, whom he used to call *Mongah* (which in the *Norish* Tongue signifieth dear friend) which afterward became the name by which he was usually called. From him there has been a continual succession of Bishops in this country, but by reason of the many alterations that fell out in it, and the loss of ancient Records, his successors for many years are not known, yet in History we read of these that follows.

2. *William* Bishop of *Orkney*, who lived in the time of King *Robert* the third.

3. *William Tulloch* who was Bishop of this Countrey in the time of King *James* the third, of him we read that *Anno* 1468 he was sent with several other Noble Persons, to *Christiern* King of *Denmark*, and *Norway* to seek his Daughter the Lady *Margaret* in marriage to the said King *James*. About *July* they came to *Hafnen* in *Denmark*, where King *Christi-*

ern

ern then remained, and were of him joyfully received, and well heard concerning their Sute, in ſo much that by advice of his Counſel, he agreed in this ſort, that the Lady *Margaret* ſhould be given in marriage to King *James*, & that the Iſles of *Orkney*, and *Zetland* ſhould remain in the poſſeſſion of him & his Succeſſours Kings of *Scotland*, till either the ſaid King *Chriſtern* or his Succeſſors in the name of *Dowry*, ſhould pay to King *James* or his Succeſſors the ſumm of fifty thouſand Florents of the *Rhine*, Upon this our Biſhop, and the other Ambaſſadours return with the eſpouſed Lady to *Scotland* in *November*, and in the *Abbay Church*, at *Holy Rood-Houſe*, ſhe was married, and crowned Queen, Afterward ſhe was brought to bed of a Son called *James* (who afterwards ſucceeded to the Crown) whereupon *Chriſtiern* to congratulate the happy birth of this young Prince, his Grand Child, renounced by a Charter under his great Seal, all the right, Title and Claim, which he or the Kings of *Denmark*, might have to theſe Iſles of *Orkney* and *Zetland*.

This Biſhop builded a ſtately monument for a Burrial place to himſelf in the Cathedral Kirk, which continued a great decorement to it, till about the Year 1660 when it was pulled down, but whither he was buried

ried in it or not, I cannot tell, ſeeing *Spotſwood* informs us that he was tranſlated from this to the Biſhopriek of *Murray*, and an old monument tells, that he continued five years Biſhop of that *Sea*, and there dying was buried in St. *Maries* Iſle in the Canonrie kirk there.

4 To him ſucceeded *Andrew* Biſhop of *Orkney*, who alſo lived in the Reign of King *James* the third, and was Biſhop at that ſame time when the Town of *Kirkwall* got their erection into a Royal Burrow confirmed by the ſaid King, *Anno* 1485.

5. After him we read of *Edward Stuart* Biſhop of *Orkney*, who lived in the Reign of King *James* the fourth, of him *Boethius* gives a noble teſtimony. He enlarged the Cathedral Kirk to the Eaſt all above the *Grees*.

6. To him ſucceeded *Thomas* Biſhop of *Orkney*, who founded and mortified ſomething for the maintainance of the Quiriſters in the Cathedral Kirk.

7. After him was *Robert Maxwel* Biſhop of *Orkney*, he cauſed build the ſtalls that are in the Cathedrall Kirk, which are curiouſly engraven, with the arms of ſeveral of his Predeceſſors, & with other fancies. It was he that cauſed found and make thoſe excellent bells that are in the Steeple of the *Cathedral*, which on his own expenſes, were founded

in

in the Castle of *Edinburgh*, by *Robert Borthwick*, in the Year 1528, in the Reign of King *James* the fifth, as their inscription bears, The next year *anno* 1529 *May* 18. The Earl of *Caithness*, and the Lord *Sinclair*, came with a great Army by Sea into *Orkney*, to have taken possession of it, as of a Countrey, to which they pretended some right, but the People of the Countrey, under Command of Sir *James Sinclair* (natural Son to *Robert Sinclair* the last Earl of *Orkney*, of that Sirname) encountred the Earle with such courage, at a place caled *Summersdale* that his army was wholly discomfited, the Earl himself with five hundred of his men being slain, and the Lord *Sinclair* with all the residue taken prisoners It is said of Sir *James Sinclair* that presuming on his merits, and the good service he had done the King by that engagement, begged of Kings *James* the fifth, then reigning, the Isles of *Sanda* and *Eda*, which he represented to him then, being no other then *Holms*, only good for pasturing, & upon his request obtained them (which I conceive is the reason why *Buchannan* does not reckon any of these either *Sanda* or *Eda* among the Isles of *Orkney*, by being deceived with that opinion that they were but *Holms*, whereas they are among the most considerable Isles in this Countrey,) but the King being afterwards better

better informed, and that he had been cheated by Sir *James*, threatned that his head should pay for it when he came to *Orkney*, for fear of which (when he heard of the Kings arrival) he cast himself in the Sea in a place called the *Glomp* of *Linksness* and drowned himself. The King coming in person to this Countrey to settle the Troubles and Commotions that were in it, was nobly entertained by the Bishop all the time of his Stay, and having put a guard in the Kings and Bishops Castles (having first visited some of the Western Isles) he returned to *Edinburgh*, taking with him some of the Factious Gentrie, whom he imprisoned, some in the Castle of *Edinburgh* and some in *Dumbar*, at which time also the Town of *Kirkwall* gave such demonstrations of their affection, and Loyaltie to their King, that sometime after, he ratified their erection into a Royal Burrow, by a new charter of Confirmation *Anno* 1536

8. To him succeeded *Robert Reid* Bishop of *Orkney*, a very deserving Person, of an Excellent Witt, and great Experience. He was a great Builder, for he caused build a stately Tower to the North end of the Bishops Palace, where his Statue Engraven in stone is as yet remaining, set in the wall. He greatly enlarged the Cathedral Kirk, adding three Pillars to the former Fabrick,

and

and decoring the Entry with a Magnificent Porch. He moreover built St. *Olaus* Kirk in *Kirkwal*. And a large Court of Houſes, to be a Colledge for the Inſtructing of the Youth of this Countrey in Grammar and Philoſophy. Moreover, he made a new Foundation of the Chapter, enlarging the number of Canons, Prebends, and other Officers, and ſetting large and ample Proviſions on them as is ſet down in the former Chapter. In a Book dedicated to him by *Adam Senior* a Monk of the *Ciſtercian* Order, I find that he had a right to the Monaſtries of *Beauly* and *Kinloſs* (which laſt he Enriched with an excellent Bibliotheck, well furniſhed with many Notable Volumes) But whither he had theſe as Biſhop of *Orkney*, or only in *Commendam*, I am not able to determine.

He was in great Credit with his Prince King *James* the fifth, who Conſulted him in all his weighty Affairs. In his time he performed many honourable Ambaſſages, to the Credit and Benefit of his Countrey. Among the reſt, he was one of theſe, that accompanied the Young Queen *Mary*, when ſhe was ſent into *France*, to be maried to the *Dolphine* (afterwards *Francis* the ſecond King of *France*) though both in his going and comin^g, he had a bad fortune; for in his going

going the Ship which he was in (which had all the Furniture for the Marriage, which was very Rich and Costly) perished on the Coast of *France*, near to *Bulloigne*, the Bishop and the Earl of *Rothes* that was with him, hardly escaping by the Ships Boat. And in his return from the Court of *France*, he dyed at *Diep*, the 14 *September Anno* 1558. Of whom *Ant: Bardol* a famous Poet gives us this remarkable Epigrame.

Quid tentem Angusto perstringere carmine laudes,
Quas nulla eloquii vis celebrare queat.
Clarus es eloquio, Cœlo dignissime præsul
Antiqua generis nobilitate viges.
Commissumque gregem pascis, relevasque jacentem,
Exemplo ducens ad meliora tuo,
Ac velut exoriens, Terris sol discutit umbras,
Illustras radiis pectora Cæca tuis,
Hortaris tardos, objurgas, corripis omnes
In mala præcipites, quo vetus error agit,
Pauperibus tua tecta patent, tua prompta voluntas,
Atque bonis semper dextera larga tua est,
Nemo lupos melius særis ab ovilibus arcet,
Ni Christi Lanient diripiantque gregem:

GReat Bishop! why should I attempt thy Praise?
Which to just height no Eloquence can raise!
Thy charming tongue's adorned with Heavenly Grace,
Thou art descended of a Noble Race:
The Flock thou feeds committed to thy trust,
Supports and Guides in the paths of the Just,

And

And as the rising Sun does bring the day,
Thou from our minds does darkness chase away:
The slow thou helpest forward, and keeps in
By sharp rebuke, these who are prone to sin,
The poor thy Palace as their own command,
Whom thou ne're sends away with empty hand,
No shepherd better, e're Christs Flock did keep,
And from the ravening Wolves secured the sheep.

In this Bishops time, the *English* being in Hostility with *Scotland*, sent a Navie under the Conduct of Sir *John Clare* Admiral to infest *Orkney*, who coming to *Kirkwal* and intending to burn it, was by the Valour of the Inhabitants, with the help of a Tempest that arose at that time, forced to hoise sail and return home with shame.

9. The Reformation being set a foot about this time, there succeeded to him *Adam Bothwel* Bishop of *Orkney*, the first reformed Bishop of this Countrey, and who continued long in his Bishoprick, notwithstanding of the prejudice that the Church had then at that Order.

This Bishop was a man of great employment and action; it was he that marryed the Earl of *Bothwel* Duke of *Orkney*, with the Queen in the Palace of *Holy-Rood-House*. To him Queen *Mary*, when she had resigned the Crown, gave a procuration for the Inaugarating the Prince her Son, who accordingly

on

on the 29 of *July* 1567, Crowned and Anointed him in the Church of *Stirling*. And in the year following, when the Earl of *Murray* Regent, was to go to *England*, anent the debate between the King and his Mother, (who was detained Prisoner there,) this Bishop was one of these who by the Estates of the Kingdom, were Commissioned to attend the Regent, and assist him in that debate: And afterwards at the desire of Queen *Elizabeth Anno* 1571, he with other Noble Persons was sent into *England*, for the Composing of some Differences between the Realms.

Its recorded of this Bishop, That he went in company with *William Kirkaldie* of *Grange*, when he was sent to pursue *Bothwel* Duke of *Orkney*, that was playing the Pirate about this Countrey: He went with five Ships well Maned, and came so suddenly upon *Bothwel*, that he had almost taken him before he was a ware; but he being in a light Pinnace, escaped through the shallow: But the *Lyon* in which the Bishop of *Orkney* was, and which followed after, being a Ship of great burden stuck fast upon a Rock, so that the men for safety of their Lives, were constrained to betake themselves to their Cockboat; Whereupon the Bishop being last in the Ship, and seeing the Boat loosing, called

to

to them to ſtay for him, but they being ſufficiently loaded, would not hear him, and ſo ſeeing no other remedy, he leapt unto the Boat: having on him a Corſlet of proofe, which was thought to be a ſtrange Jump, eſpecially not to have overturned the Boat, and ſo by the Mercy of GOD they came all ſafe to land.

He made an exchange of the Biſhoprick of *Orkney*, with *Robert Stuart*, natural Son to King *James* the Fifth for the *Abbacy* of *Holy Rood Houſe*, whereby it came to paſs, that his ſon afterwards was made Lord *Holy Rood-Houſe*.

Robert Stuart being Earl of *Orkney*, and alſo obtaining the Biſhoprick of *Orkney* (as ſaid is) by the exchange of the *Abbacy* of *Holy Rood-Houſe* (which he before poſſeſſed) he and his Son after him uplifted the Rents of the Biſhoprick, as their own hereditarie Patrimony. The Church of *Orkney*, in the mean time (according to the cuſtome then received in *Scotland*) being governed by a Superintendent with *Epiſcopall* power, to direct all Church cenſures, and ordain Miniſters 10. This Superintendent was maſter *James Annan*, at that time Miniſter of the Churches of *Sanda* and *Weſtra*.

But *Anno* 1606, King *James* the ſixth, by conſent

conſent of his Parliament, and Aſſembly of the Church, having reſtored the Eſtates of Biſhops in *Scotland*. 11. *James Law* was made Biſhop of *Orkney*, and though he was for a time deprived of the Temporalities of his Biſhoprick, by the power of *Patrick* Earl of *Orkney*, yet after his death he enjoyed them peaceably.

Conſidering the many and great Quarrels and Miſchiefs that had alwayes been between the former Earls and Biſhops of *Orkney*, and their ſeveral Vaſſalls (becauſe their ſeveral Lands did ly mixed through other) therefore he made that famous Tranſaction and Contract with King *James* (of which I have already given you an account) whereby the Biſhoprick is ſeperate from the Earldom, and the Biſhop is made ſole Judge within his own bounds. He was a Perſon whom that great King did reſpect, and often employ in ſeveral Important Matters; Shortly after his Election to the Biſhoprick, he was with ſome other Prelates ſent for by the King to Court, to adviſe with them anent the ſetling of the State of the Church in this Kingdom. And the next year we find him preceeding in the Aſſembly at *Linlithgow*, where it was ordered the Names of all the Papiſts within the Kingdom ſhould be written down, that their number and forces being

ing known, answerable Remedies might be provided. He had a chief hand in the tryal of these Oppressions and Treasonable Acts, for which *Patrick* Earl of *Orkney* was execute. After he had sat Bishop nine years, he was Translated from this Sea to the Arch Bishoprick of *Glasgow*, *Anno* 1615.

12. To him succeeded *George Grahame* Bishop of *Dumblaine*, who sat Bishop of *Orkney* twenty three years. And in the year 1638, at the Assembly of *Glasgow*, when the Bishops were ejected, he was forced to quite his charge. He was a great Builder, and a Hospital man, and has left behind him a flourishing progeny, who as yet live in great honour in this Countrey.

13. After Bishop *Graham* had been devested of the Bishoprick, King *Charles* 1. did promote and elect *Robert Barron* Doctor and Professor of Divinity, in the Marishal Colledge of *Aberdeen* to the Bishoprick. But being forced to flee to *Berwick*, he there died before his Consecration.

In the interval of Presbytery, the Rents of the Bishoprick were granted by Parliament to the City of *Edinburgh*, who uplifted them by their Factors and Farmers till the year 1662.

14. In which year Episcopacy being again by King and Parliament restored

Thomas

Thomas St. ſerff (who ſeems to have his name from *Servanus* the firſt Biſhop of *Orkney*, commonly called *St ſerff*) formerly Biſhop of *Gallowa*y (& the only old biſhop who was then alive) was made biſhop of *Orkney*, he lived about two years after his Inſtalment, and at his Death left in Teſtament four hundred Merks to be given to the poor in *Kirkwall*.

15. To him, *Anno* 1664, ſucceeded *Andrew Honyman*, Arch Deacon of St. *Andrews*, a Godly and Learned Prelate, the Author of the *Seaſonable Caſe* and *Survey of Naphtalie*, he repaired & Sklated the Church of *Sandwick*, & did many other good works of charity; *Anno* 1669 being at *Edinburgh*, he was ſhot through the arm with a *poiſoned ball*, which ſo weakned him that he lived not many years after: for to the Regrate of the whole country he died in *February*, *Anno* 1676. He died in great peace and with great reſignation, contrary to what is aſſerted in a late Pamphlet, as is ready to be atteſted if need be by ſeverall Gentlemen of untainted Reputation witneſſes when he died, his funeral Sermon being preached by Maſter *James Wallace* Author of this Book, and he lyes buried in the Cathedral Church in the place where Biſhop *Tullochs* Tomb had been erected.

In his time warrs being betwixt our King and the *Hollanders*, a *Hollands Privateer* came and assaulted the Town of *Kirkwall*: shooting many Guns at it, but by the Providence of GOD, none was killed or hurt, though by the Guns from the Town and Mount, the Ship of the Enemie was much damnified, and had several of their men slain.

16. To him succeeded *Murdoch Mackenzie*, Bishop of *Murray*, translated from that Sea to this, *Anno* 1677, a most worthy Bishop, and greatly beloved of all for his Hospitality, Peaceableness, Piety, Brotherliness, and Prudent Government. He has on his own Charges repaired our Lady Kirk in *Shapinsha*, which is Sklaited, Ceiled, and has a new Quire added to it, so that now it is one of the handsomest Country Churches we have. He lived to a good age, being near a hundered years, and yet great was his vigour of Body and vivacity of Judgement even to his death, but to the regrate of all that knew him, and the lots of the whole Countrey, he died *February* 1688.

17. To him *Anno* 1688, succeeded Doctor *Andrew Bruce*, formerly Bishop of *Dunkeld*, in whose time the Revolution fell out.

There are in this Countrey eighteen Ministers of the blessed Gospel, whereof some have one, some two, and some three Kirks,

in

in which the People are edified by the Holy Ordinances, all of them Men of great Piety, and Observant of the Duties of their Pastorall Employment.

CHAP. XI

The History of the first Plantation of the Isles of Orkney, *and of the Ancient and present Possessors of them.*

THE first Planters and Possessors of this Countrey, were certainly the Pights, as the generality of our Historians do affirm, who moreover call *Orkney Antiquum Pictorum regnum*, the ancient Kingdom of the Pights: There being yet in this Countrey, several strange antique Houses, many of which are overgrown with Earth, which are still called Pights Houses, and the Firth that runs between this and *Caithness*, is still from them called *Pightland Firth*: *i. e.* the Firth that runs by the Land of the Pights. Though *Buchannan* (to Establish his Opinion) would rather have it called *Fretum penthlandicum*, from *Penthus*, a man of his own making. These verses of the Poet *Claudian*,

——— *Maduerunt Saxone fuso,*
Oreades, incaluit pictorum sanguine Thule.

The *Orkney* Isles with *Saxon* Blood was wet,
And *Thule* with the *Pictish* gore did sweat,

Do evidently prove that the *Pights* with some other Colony of the *German Nation*, particularly the *Saxons*, at that time were the possessors and Inhabitants of these Northern Isles. Moreover to this day many of the Inhabitants use the *Norse*, or Old *Gothick Language*, which is not much different from the Old *Teutonick*, or the Language which the Pights used. Besides the Sirnames of the ancient Inhabitants are of a *German* Original; For the *Seaters* are so called from *Seater*, one of the old *German* Idols which they worshiped for *Saturn*. the *Taits* from *Twitsh i.e.* The *Dutch* who got that name from *Twiscs* the *Son* of *Noe* and *Tythea* the famous progenitours of the *Germans*: The *Keldas*, from the ancient *Culdees* or *Keldeis* (as *Spotswood* thinks) who were the ancient Priests or Ministers of the Christian Religion among the *Pights*, so called because they lived in *Cells*: The *Baikies*, from some small running watter which in the ancient *Teutonick*, is called a *Baikie*: So the names that end in *Stane* as *Hourstane*, *Corstane*, *Torstane*, *Beistane*, &c. Which is a *pictish* or *Teutonick* termination of Sirname, signifying the superlative degree of comparison, and many more might

might be added, if it were needfull to shew that the *Pictish* Blood is as yet in this countrey, and that that People were the first possessors of it.

These *Pights*, as is generally acknowledged were of a *German* descent, comming at first from that part of *Germany*, that borders on the *Baltique Sea*, where at present are the Dukedoms of *Meckleburgh* and *Pomerania*; They were so called, because they were notable Warriours, and fighters, their true name (as *Verstegan* informs us) being *Phighting*, that is *Phighters* or *Fighters*: They are by the *Romans* called *Picti*, though some Writters call them *Pictavi*, and might have been so called by them, either from some resemblance to that name of *Phighting* that they took to themselves, or from their singular beauty & comely form, as if they had been a painted people, and so *Boethius* in his Character of them, puts both these properties together, saying of them, *Quod erant Corporibus robustissimis candidisq;* the like sayeth *Verstegan* of them, that they were tall and strong of body, and of a very fair complection; And so is it to this very hour, their being no people in *Scotland*, that more resembles the *Pights* in these qualities then the generality of our *Orkney* men, and women does, being generally strongly built and

And very beautiful and lovely. Or the *Romans* might have called them *Picti*, because being a people much delighting in wars, they had their Shields painted with diverse colours, for *Alex: ab Alex: lib. 2. gen. dier. chap.* 22. obserues, that it was the way of the *German* Nation so to do, saying, *Germani Scuta Lectissimis coloribus distinxere.* Though I think it more probable they were called so because to make themselves more terrible to their enemies, they used to paint their Bodies with the Images, of divers beasts, or imprint them on their flesh, with some Iron instruments, which has given occasion to *Claudian* to say of them.

——— *Ferroque notatas*
Perlegit exanimes Picto moriente figuras.

And various figures on their Bodies spye,
While dying *Picts* upon the ground did lye.

But at what time these *Pights* first planted these Isles is somewhat contraverted by our writters, some say that in the year of the World 4867, the Pights having left their native Countrey, to seek out some new habitation to themselves, came first to *Orkney*, where they left a colony to plant the Countrey, & then with their main body Ferrying over *Pightlandfirth*, and passing through

Caithnes

Caithness Ross, *Murray*, *Marr* and *Angus*, at last settled themselves in *Fife* and *Louthian*, which from them by our writters is called *Pictlandia*. Others more probablie think that the Pights did not settle here till the time of *Reuther* King of *Scots*, at which time the *Scots* by an intestine division warring upon one another, each party being assisted by considerable numbers of the Pights; they fought so disperatly, that, besides *Gethus* King of Pights, the greatest number of both the *Scots* and *Pictish* Nobilitie were killed, togethes with many thousands of the Commons of both Nations, which great slaughter, with the invasion of the *Britons* at the same time constrained the Pights (who perceived themselves unable to resist them) to fly, some by land and others by Sea to *Orkney*, where they abode for a time and made *Gothus* the brother of the foresaid *Gethus* to be their King, and after some few yeats having left some of their number to people and plant the Countrey, they returned to *Louthian*, and having expelled the *Britons*, settled themselves again in their ancient possessions.

The Countrey being thus Planted, the People grew and multiplied, and for a long time were governed by Kings of their own, after the manner of the Pights and other nations.

There

There is still a place in this Countrey, that by reason of its name and antique form, would seem to have been the Residence of some of those Kings; For it is called *Castingsgar*, though now it be deservedly appropriate to be a dwelling house to the Reverend Minister of *Sandwick*: But the memory of the Names and Actions of these Kings are by the iniquity of time and carelesness of our Writers buried in silence. Only we find mention made of these two *Belus* King of *Orkney*, *Holinshed* calls him *Bladus*, and *Boethius Balus*, but it is more likely he was called *Belus*: For there is at this time a stone in the Kirk of *Birsa*, (where probably the King had his principal Residence, as at this hour one of our Kings chiefest palaces is remaining,) having this name *Belus* engraven on it in ancient Characters. This Prince upon what provocation is not recorded, levied an Army, and crossing *Pightland Firth*, invaded *Caithness* and *Ross*, making prey of all he met with: But *Ewen* the second being at that time King of *Scotland*, hearing of this Invasion, came with his Army so unexpectedly upon him, and assaulted him so vigorously, that he put his Souldiers to flight, a great many escaping by Boat, but *Belus* himself was put to that strait, that he slew himself, lest he should fall into his Enemies hands,

After

After him we read of another King of *Orkney*, called *Ganus*, in the time of *Caractacus* King of *Scots* and of him it is reported, that *Claudius Cæsar*, being in *England*, after he had settled the *roman* interest there, *Anno* CHRISTI 43. Took a resolution to invade and subdue *Orkney*, pretending that that People had assisted the *Scots* against him; but indeed that he might get some glory to himself by vanquishing so remote a people; And so he comes with his Navy and Forces to this Country, where though the people did resist him manfully, yet being overpowered, they were at last Vanquished, and their King *Ganus* with his Wife and Children apprehended, and were carried with him to *Rome*, where they with some Noble *Britans* were led in Triumph. This History *Boetius* reports out of *Beda*, *Suetonius*, *Eutropius*, besides some later Writers; Also *Hartmannus Schedel* in his General History of the several Ages of the World, speaking of the Emperour *Claudius*, sayes, *Quod insulas Orcades Romano adjecit imperio, sexto quo profectus est mense Romam redit & triumphavit maximo apparatu.*

This *Juvenal* takes Notice of, when he says in his second Satyre;

Litora Tuberna promovimus, & modo captas
Orcadas, & minimis contentos nocte Britannos.

We

We have in Orkney and Strathairn coast,
And Britain wholl shortest night do boast.

A little after the *Romans* had not such cause for triumph over *Orkney*, for when *Agricola* was their General in *Britain*, *Anno Christi* 87, as *Hendry Isaacson* computes it in his Chronological Tables, he sent a Navy to sail about *Britain*, to discover the largeness of it, or whether it was an Isle or not, and after they had coasted many dayes towards the North, they came at last in sight of *Orkney*, (which *Tacitus* for want of better information imagins to be unknown before that time) but fearing to sail through *Pightland Firth* for fear of shallows, they seised some of the Husband men, that lived in the next Islands constraining them to go aboard, and pilot them through the Firth. But they suspecting that the *Romans* had a hostile design on their country, not caring for their own Lives, they entred the strait at such an inconvenient time, that the ships were born with the violence of the stream against the Rocks and Shelves in such a manner, that they were all almost torn, broke, and lost, without recovery, only some few of the *Navy*, that were not so hasty to follow, perceiving the sad loss of their fellows, returned by the same way they came, and reported these lamentable Tidings to *Agricola*. And indeed

there

there is a place in *Shapinsha*, over against which are impetuous Tides and dangerous Shallows, at this day called *Agricola*, but whither it got that name from this accident, I am not able to determine.

But yet it seems that *Orkney* was a considerable thing in the eyes of the *Romans*; For *Polyd. Virgil*, lib. 3. *Anglicæ historiæ*, speaking of the division of the Empire among the Sons of *Constantine* the Great, reckons *Orkney* among the famous Kingdoms that fell to the share of his Son *Constantine*, says he, *Huic "sorte evenit Britannia cum Gallia, Hispaniæ & "Orchadibus.*

This Countrey its like, continued thus under the Government of their own Princes, till the fatal ruine and subversion of the *Pictish* Kingdom in *Scotland*, in the year of our LORD 839. At which time *Kenneth* the second, that martial King of *Scots*, having in many Battels overthrown the *Picts*, at last expelled them out of all *Scotland*, Ingoing on *Fife* and *Louthian*, and the other large Territories that they had therein, he pursued them to *Orkney*, vanquishing these Isles, and adding them to his other Dominions. *Orkney* being thus annexed to the Crown of *Scotland*, it continued many years under the Government of the *Scottish* Kings and their Lieutenants, till about the year 1099.

At

At which time *Donald Bain* Lord of the Isles, having usurped the Crown, and caused himself to be proclaimed King of *Scotland*, and being thereupon put hardly to it by the injured Heir & discontented Nobility, that he might not loose what he had unjustly usurped, he invited *Magnus* King of *Norraway* to come to his assistance, with an offer of the Isles for his pains, who coming with his Navy invaded *Orkney* and the *Western Isles*, putting Garisons in all convenient places.

By this means the *Norvegian* got Possession of this Country, who held it for the space of 164 years, when they came to loose it all again upon this occasion *Anno* 1263. *Alexander* the third being then King of *Scotland*, *Aebo* (by some called *Hagin*) King of *Norraway*, hoping from the divisions that were then in the Kingdom, and the famine that then was sore pressing the Land, to make some further Conquest in *Scotland*, he comes with a great Navy and Army of *Danes* and *Norvegians* to the *West Isles*, and conquers *Argile* and *Bute* (which were the only Isles at that time, under the Dominion of the *Scots*) and from this fortress hoping for greater matters, he Lands on the continent, and takes in the Town and Castle of *Air*. But King *Alexander* having assembled a great Army, assaults him in Battel at *Largis*,

kills

kills his Nephew a Man of great Renown, and after a great slaughter of his Souldiers (to the number of twenty four thousand) puts the Remainder to flight. Immediatly upon this defeat, King *Acho* hears of another sadd loss, namely that his Fleet containing the number of an hundered and fifty Ships, were by the force of an outragious tempest all cast away and broken against the rocks, except four in which he presently embarqued & fled away to *Orkney*. Being come thither, he sent to *Norraway* and *Denmark* for a new army & fleet, with an intention again to invade *Scotland* the next Summer, but he died in the beginning of the following year *January* 22 *anno* 1264. And was buried in that place, where the Cathedral now stands under a marble stone, which is seen to this day.

After his death King *Alexander* invaded the Isle of *Man*, and the *Western Isles*, which after some opposition he recovered, and intending to make the like attempt for the recovery of *Orkney* & *Zetland* there came Ambassadours to him from *Magnus* King of *Norraway* & *Denmark*, who succeeded his father *Acho* in these Kingdoms, a man well enclined, and one that feared God, after several treatises it was at last condescended upon that King *Alexander* should pay to the King

of *Norroway* the summ of 4000 Merks *Sterling*, with the sum of an hundred merks by year; And that for this *Magnus* King of *Norroway*, should quite all right that he might pretend to the Isles of *Orkney* & *Zetland*, & the other Isles of *Scotland*, which accordingly he did by Letters under his great seal; renouncing and giving over all right or claim that he had or might have both for him and his successors, to these & all the other Isles of *Scotland*. And for the better confirmation hereof a marriage was agreed upon betwixt the Lady *Margaret* daughter to *Alexander* and *Hangonanus* (or *Hannigo*, or *Aquine* as others call him) son to King *Magnus*, both Children, to be compleated when they came to a matriageable estate.

This *Magnus* King of *Norroway* was a man of great Pietie and Devotion, for which he was reputed a Saint, commonly called Saint *Magnus*. He much advanced the Christian Religion in this Countrey, whose patron he is held to be, and is thought to have founded that stately Edifice in *Kirkwall* which is now the Cathedral, called from him *St. Magnus Kirk*.

The opinion of his sanctity and miracles made him so famous that the day wherein King *Robert Bruce* gave that great & memorable defeat to the *English* at *Bannockburn*, there

there was seen rideing through *Aberdeen* a horseman in shining armour who told them of the Victory, and thereafter was seen rideing on his horse over *Pightland firth*; Where upon it was concluded (sayeth *Boetius*, who tells this story) that it was Saint *Magnus*. And upon that account, the King after the victory ordered that for ever after five pound Sterling should be payed to St. *Magnus* Kirk in *Kirkwall*, out of the customs payable by the Town of *Aberdeen*.

Orkney being in this manner recovered from the hands of the *Danes* and *Norwegians*, it continued ever after annexed to the Crown of *Scotland*, King *Alexander* giving the property of it to a Nobleman, sirnamed *Spiere* Earl of *Caithness*, whose son *Magnus Spiere*, Earl of *Caithness*, *Orkney*, and *Zetland*, was in great repute in the days of King *Robert Bruce*.

But he dying without Heirs Male, his Daughter *Elizabeth Speire* succeeded him in the Estate, and was married to Sir *William Sinclair*, who accompanied Sir *James Douglass* when he went to carry the *Bruces* heart to *Jerusalem*. He was great Grand Child to *Wilielmus de Sancto Claro* second Son to *Valdosius* Earl of *Saint Claire* in *France*. And the Earldome of *Orkney* & *Zetland*, fell to him about sixty and odd years after the recovery of it from the *Danes*.

This

This Sir *William Sinclair* by his wife *Elizabeth Spere* had a Son called *William* also, who was created Earl of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, by King *David Bruce*. He was first Married to *Florentina*, Daughter to the King of *Denmark*, and after her death was Married to *Jean Halyburton*, Daughter to *Walter* Lord *Dirletoun*.

To him succeeded his son *Henry Sinclair*, usually called Prince of *Orkney*, he was also created Duke of *Oldenburgh*, by *Christiern* the first, King of *Denmark*. He married *Geils* or *Egidia Douglas*, Daughter to *William Douglas* Lord of *Niddisdale*, and of *Geils Stuart* Daughter to King *Robert* the second. He was usually styled Knight of the *Cockle*, Knight of the *Garter*, Knight of the *Thistle*, and Knight of the *Golden Fleece* (which are the principal Orders of Knighthood in *Scotland*, *England*, *France*, and *Germany*,) and Prince of *Orkney*. So much was he Honoured and Favoured by King *Robert* the third, that when he was to send his son Prince *James* (afterward King *James* the first) to *France* he appointed this *Henry* Prince of *Orkney* to be his Governour, who taking Ship with him at the *Bass*, came the length of *Flamburgh head*, where by reason of the sickness and indisposition of the Young Prince, they were necessitated to land, and so were both

both detained prisoners by the *English*, in the year 1406: He had a Daughter called *Beatrix Sinclair*; who was married to *James the Gross* Earl of *Dowglas*: And in the inscription that is upon her Tomb at *Dowglas*, her Father the Earl of *Orkney*, is styled Lord of the *Isles*, and Lord *Sinclair*.

To him succeeded his Son *William Sinclair* Earl of *Orkney* and *Zetland*; He married *Elizabeth Dowglas* Daughter to *Archibald* Earl of *Dowglas*, surnamed *Tineman*, by whom he had a Daughter that afterwards was married to *Alexander* Duke of *Albany*, second son to King *James* the second. In the *Dowglas* History we find a Note of this Earles Titles, *viz.* That he was Knight of the *Golden Fleece*, and of the *Cockle*, Prince of *Orkney*, Duke of *Oldenburgh*, Earl of *Caithnss*, Lord *Sinclair*, Lord of *Niddisdale*, with the Vallyes of *Neth*, Sheriff of *Dumfriess*, Great Admiral of *Scotland*, Warden of the Marches, great Justice General, Baron of *Erkfoord*, *Caverton*, *Coussland*, *Rosline*, *Pentland*, *Harbart shire*, *Dysart*, and *Newburgh* in *Buchan*. But for all these promising Titles, either his power was not answerable, or he would not shew it, for being ordered by King *James* the second (at that time that *William* Earl of *Dowglas* had fallen into the Kings displeasure) to go and intromet with his Goods and Rents in *Gallo-*

way and *Dowglas*, to satisfie the Complainers therewith, he went according to Order, but he went in vain, for he was but mocked by the Earl of *Dowglas* Vassalls, and returned without doing any harm. Yet questionless he was a Man of great Power and Eminence, for he was very intimate with the King, whom he followed and assisted in all his difficulties, and by him was made Lord Chancellor of the Kingdom and Lieutenant, after that office was taken from the Earl of *Dowglass*. And from that same King he got a confirmation of the Earldom of *Caithness*, united into a Barronrie with his lands of *Orkney*, in compensation of his claim to the Lordship of *Niddisdale*, and of other offices and pensions that he pretended to, as being Son to *Giels Dowglass* Daughter to *William Dowglass*, Lord of *Niddisdale*, and of *Giels Stuart* daughter to King *Robert* the second, by his wife *Elizabeth Muir*. This Confirmation is dated *Aprile* 29 *Anno* 1456 in which he calls him his Chancellor and Cousin.

To him succeeded his son *Robert Sinclair* Earl of *Orkney*; but he being, as I am informed, forefaulted for non-compearance to the Parliament: The Earldom of *Orkney* and Lordship of *Zetland*, was again annexed to the Crown, and so it continued till the reign of Queen *Mary*. At

At which time *James Hepburn* Earl of *Bothwell* was by her created Duke of *Orkney*, by that Dignity to make him the more worthy to be a husband to her ſelf, who were married by *Adam Bothwel* Biſhop of *Orkney* in the palace of *Holy Rood Houſe*, after the manner of the reformed Church, on the 15 of *May* 1567 He perceiving how much he would be envyed by the Nobility for that marriage, & for a ſuſpition they had that he was the murtherer of her former husband, he cauſed build a ſtrong caſtle in *Weſtra*, called the *caſtle of Noustland*, to be a place of retreat in caſe a ſtorm ſhould fall. And ſo it came to paſs, for being deſerted by the Queen at *Carberry hill*, and purſued by the Lords of the Congregation, he made to ſea with two or three ſhips which he prepared before hand for that purpoſe, and came to *Orkney*, but being denied entrance into the Caſtle of *Kirkwal*, (the *Caſtle of Noustland* not being fully finiſhed) by *Gilbert Balfour* the keeper of it, he betook himſelf again to ſea, playing the Pyrate, and making prey of all ſhips that he could maſter and ſeiſe upon, till at laſt he was driven from this countrey by *William Kirkaldie*, of *Grange*, and ſo fleeing from this to *Zetland*, and from thence to *Norraway*, he was there apprehended and convoyed to *Denmark*, where he was put into a vile priſon,

in which after the ſpace of ten years, he made a baſe end, anſwerable to the wicked life he had led.

After the death and forefaulture of *James Hepburn* Duke of *Orkney* the Lord *Robert Stuart* Uncle to King *James* the ſixth, by his Mother, (for he was Natural ſon to King *James* the Fifth,) was made Earl of *Orkney*, in *Auguſt*, *anno* 1581. And being before provided to the *Abbacie* of *Holy Rood houſe*, he made an Exchange of that with *Adam Bothwel* for the Biſhoprick of *Orkney*, and ſo became ſole Lord of the whole Countrey. He built or repaired the palace of *Birſa*, the chief Reſidence of the Earles of *Orkney*, having this inſcription above the Gate, *Dominus Robertus Stuartus Filius* Jacobi *quinti Rex* Scotorum, *hoc opus inſtruxit*: Which inſcription, together with the motto that he had above his Arms, *Sic fuit, eſt, & erit.* I am informed, did militate ſomething againſt his ſon, when he was pannelled for his Life. In his time King *James* the ſixth was married to Queen *Anne*, the King of *Denmarks* Siſter, at which time there was a new Renunciation of the Right that the Kings of *Denmark* might pretend to theſe Iſles of *Orkney* and *Zetland*.

To him ſucceeded his Son *Patrick Stuart* Earl of *Orkney*; He was a great oppreſſor of the Countrey. *Spotſwoods* Character of him

" is in these words; " *This Noblemen (sayes he) having undone his Estate by Roiot and Prodigality, did seek by unlawful shifts, to repair the same, making unjust acts in his Courts, and exacting penalties for the breach thereof, if any man was tryed to have concealed any thing that might inferr a pecuniary mulct, and bring profit to the Earl, his lands and goods were declared, confiscated, or if any person did sue for justice before any other judge then his deputies, his goods were escheated, or if they went forth of the Isles without his licence or his deputes, upon whatsoever occasion, they should forfault their moveables, and which of all his acts were most unhumane, he ordained, that if any man was tryed, to supplie or give relief unto Ships or any Vessels distressed by Tempest, the same should be punished in his person, and fined at the Earl his pleasure.*

These Acts produced by the Complainers, and confessed by the Earl himself, were by the Council discerned unlawful, and the Execution thereof thereafter, prohibited in all times.

These Oppressions moved King *James* the sixth, that he might deliver that injured people from so great a Tyrannie, to purchase Sir *John Arnots* Right, to whom the Earl had Impignorate his Estate, and so he took the Countrey into his own hand, send-

ing

ing Sir *James Stuart* to it, whom he made Chamberlain and Sheriff of the Countrey, who came and intromited with it, taking poſſeſſion of the Caſtles of *Birſa* and *Kirkwal*.

The Earl at this time being Impriſoned in the Caſtle of *Dumbarton*, ſent his Natural ſon *Robert Stuart*, with an expreſs cõmand to retake theſe houſes again, who accordingly did ſo. But the Earl of *Caithneſs* being commiſſioned by the King to be Lieutenant in theſe Bounds, with order to recover theſe Caſtles, and pacifie the Countrey; Shortly after his coming, he took in the Caſtle of *Kirkwal*, which he demoliſhed, and in it ſeiſed upon the ſaid *Robert Stuart*, with ſome of the Earls Servants, whom he ſent to *Edinburgh*, where ſhortly after they were hanged at the Mercat Croſs. And the next year being 1614 *February* 6, the Earl himſelf for ſeveral Trealons and Oppreſſions proven againſt him (being brought from *Dumbarton* to *Edinburgh*) was there Beheaded. He was a man of profuſe ſpending, and the Builder of that beautiful Fabrick, which afterwards was appropriated to be the Manſe of the Biſhops of *Orkney*.

The King by this means being fully poſſeſſed of this Countrey, he made Sir *James Stuart* Lord *Ochiltrie* Chamberlain and Sheriff as is ſaid. After whom others ſucceeded

to

to be Governours in it, till the year 1647, at what time *William Douglas* Earl of *Mortane* got a Wadset or morgage of this Countrey, from King *Charles* the first.

To him succeeded *Robert Douglas* his Son likewise Earl of *Morton*, *Anno* 1649. In which year the Marquess of *Montrose* came to this Countrey with several Commanders, and some Companies of forraign Souldiers, and having stayed some few moneths in *Kirkwal*, he there raised some Forces, most of whom were either killed or taken prisoners in that Encounter at *Carbesdale*.

To him succeeded in the possession of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, his Son *William Douglas* Earl of *Morton*. In the time of Warr betwixt our King and the *Hollanders*, *Anno* 1664, or thereby, It came to pass, that a great Ship called the *Carmelan* of *Amsterdam*, was cast away at *Zetland*, in which Ship there were some Chests of coyned Gold, which were seised on by some who acted for the Earl, who keeped them, giving none of them to the King: Whereupon the Lords of Thesaurie being offended, called the Earl to an account and redeemed his Waddset of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, and obtained a Decreet of Declarator against him, and so in the year 1669, these Countrys of *Orkney* and *Zetland* thus redeemed from the Earl of *Morton*, were

(excepting

(excepting the Bishops Interest) reannexed to the Crown, and erected into a Stewartrie, by Act of Parliament.

In the next year 1670, Master *George Scot* of *Gibliſtone*, was made Stewart of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, who keeped the Countrey five years.

To him *Anno* 1675 ſucceeded Captain *Andrew Dick* who keeped it ſix years.

To him ſucceeded *Charles Murray* of *Haddon*, and Sir *Robert Milne* of *Barneton*, who keeped it five years.

To them ſucceeded *William Craigie* of *Gairſa*, who alſo had it five years.

The Government of the Stewart is in the Kings Bounds, the Manner and Procedure of his Jurisdiction is after the form of Sheriffship, the Title only differing. In time of Epiſcopacy, the Biſhops part was governed by a Sheriff, both he and the Kings Stewart, having one & the ſame manner of Adminiſtration of Juſtice, & puniſhing of delinquents, and that according to the Cuſtome and Practice of other Shires in the Kingdom Both their Seats of Juſtice is at *Kirkwal*.

Under the Stewart and Sheriff, are ſome Judges of their Creation and Appointment, called Bailiffs. In every Pariſh and Iſle, there is one. Their Office is to overſee the the manners of the Inhabitants, to hold Courts, and to decern in Civil Pettie Matters,

to

to the value of ten pound SCOTS, but if the Matter be above that, it is referred to the Stewart or Sheriff, or their Deputies. Under and subservient to these Bailiffs, are six or seven of the most honest and intelligent persons within the Bounds, called *Lawrighmen* or *Lawrightmen*, which are commonly the Kirk Session Elders of the Parish. These in their respective Bounds, have the oversight of the People in the fashion of Constables, and delate to the Bailiff, such enormities as occasionally fall out, which the Bailiffs punish according to the Importance and Circumstances of the Fault: And if it be above his Limites, or extent of his power, he sends the Delinquent to the Seat of Justice, either to the Stewart or Sheriff *respectivè*.

These *Lawrightmen* have a priviledge inherent to their Office, by the Custome of the Countrey, which is not usual else where; and it is this, If there be at any time any suspition of Theft, they take some of their Neighbours with them under the silence of the night, and make search for the Theft, (which is called *Ransalling*) they search every house they come to, and if the Fang or Theft be found, they seise upon him with with whom it is found, and bring him to the Seat of Justice for Punishment.

AN EXPLICATION OF Some *Noriſh* words uſed in ORKNEY AND ZETLAND

A

A, *In the* Teutonick *Tongue ſignifieth Water, and this is the reaſon why many of the names of theſe Iſles end in* A, *to ſhew they are pieces of Land ſurrounded with Water.*

Air, *A Bank of Sand.*

Airvhouſe *The place of meeting appointed by the* Foud General, *or chief Governour.*

B

Blaud *or* **Blend.** *A drink made of the Milk that remains*

remains of the Churned Butter, being Clarifie and Barreled up for Winter.

C

Caſſie, *A Veſſel made of Straw, for weighing and tranſporting of their Corns, the weight of it on the* Malt Pundler *ſhould be half a Setten, and on the Bear Pundler eight Merk.*

Cuſtell penny, *a due the Bailiff claims out of the goods of the deceaſed.*

E

Ey *in the* Teutonick *ſignifies Water, and therefore adjected to ſome of the Iſles, as* Damſey, Gramſey.

F

Foud, *their name for the chief Governour of the Countrey, inveſted with all power in* Civil *and* Criminal *Maiters, who had ten* Fouds *or Bailiffs under him, their reſpective Juriſdiction was called* Sucken

Foudrie, *The Government of the* Foud *abovementioned.*

G

Gavelkind, *Upon the deceaſe of the Father in* Zetland, *the youngeſt got the dwelling houſe, and the reſt both* Moveables *and* Heritadges, *was divided* Gavelkind, Sine diſcrimine ſexus vel ætatis.

H

Holm, *A little Isle for the most part desart, and only employed for Pasturage.*

L

Leispound, *A weight of their Victual, which contains twenty four of their* Merks (Vide Mark) *it is called also a* Setten. *This answers to twenty eight of our pounds, at sixteen ounces the pound.*

Last *of Malt is twenty four Meils, and a* Last *of bear thirty eight* Meils.

M

Mark, *It answers to a pound, but really containeth eighteen Ounces.*

Meil, *Their Boll which contains six* Settens *or* Leispounds; *eighteen* Meils *of* Malt *make a* Chalder, *and thirty six* Meils *of Bear upon the Bear* Pundler, *and twenty four upon the* Malt Pundler *makes a* Chalder *of Bear, which will measure out twenty one Bolls* Linlithgow *measure. The Firlet will be a* Setten *and a half; But it altereth less or more, according to the goodness of the Grain. The Boll of* Meal *will be but four* Settens *and a half,* Orkney *weight.*

Mongah, *Dear Friend.*

N

Norn, *The Language spoken by the ancient Inhabitants of* Orkney *and* Zetland.

O

Oyſe, *an inlet of the Sea.*

P

Pundler, *A Beam marked with the marks of their weight, which hath a Stone on the one end, (which Stone on the* Malt *Pundler ſhould be a Setten weight, and on the* Bear *Pundler ſixteen Mark) and a Hook on the other end for hinging up the* Caſſie, *in which their Victual is: In moſt it does reſemble a Stalliard, on which* Money *is weighed.*

R

Rouſt, *a very tempetuous Tide.*

S

Setten, *The ſame with a Leiſpound (vide Leiſpound) ſix Settens make a* Meil.

Shundbil, *the decreet paſt by the* Foud.

Skeos, *theſe are little Houſes, built of dry ſtones, without any* Morter, *that the wind may have free paſſage through them in which they dry their Fiſhes and Fleſhes, and what is ſo dry is called* Blowen meat.

Skerries, *Ragged Rocks.*

Sucken, *A Bailiffrie, ſo much ground as is under the Bailiffs Juriſdiction.*

V

Voe, *a Creek or Bay.*

Vivda; *Flesh dryed in a* Skeo *without bein salted.*

U

Udall-lands, *such as are possessed by the* Udal right, *a possession the Natives have successive without either Charter, or seasin, all their Land being either such, or Kings Lands, or fe-o Lands.*

Udaller, *Heritors that hold their land by the for said* Udall-right.

Umboth, *the great* Tiend *of either half of t Parish, so called because every other year was changed with the* Minister *for his half, f the word* Umboth *signifieth time about.*

W.

Ward, *or* Wardhill, *High hills in sight of much ground upon which they plant beacon which fired upon occasion the people flock thithe where there is alwayes Fewel ready.*

Ward, *a heap of turffs and peits placed on the t of their highest hills, which being fired giv advertisement to the countrey People to me there, this being seen by the adjacent* Ward.

Longitud. 22. 11
Latitud. 59 2

OCEANUS DEUCALEDONIUS

FRETUM PICTICUM

CATHNESIÆ PARS

Pyghland Skerries

SOUTH RONALDSHA

BURRA

HOY

Graemsay

Braikness

Stennis

Skeld

Lamb Head

Bisa

Loch

Scapa

Kirkwall

Inhallo

Copinsha Hoyse

Dirnes

STRONZA

SCHAPINSHA

Sound

FIFTH

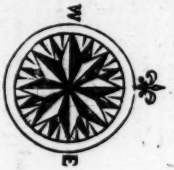
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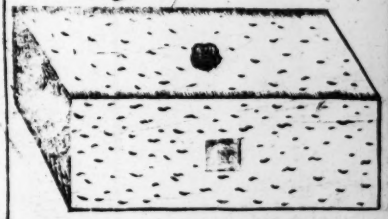
This Mapp of the Orkney Isles
to S^r Robert Sibbald of Kipps M.D by M^r Ja

ALEDONIUS





Quarsie Stone 2



Urna Sepulchralis 3



For tisicatione 4



Isles Dedicated
by M. James Wallace



AN

ESSAY

Concerning the

THULE

OF THE

ANCIENTS

Where it is ſhewen that the *Thule* mentioned by the *Roman* Writers, was the North East Part of Britain, lying over against the Iſles of *Orkney*.

Orcadibus *qua cincta ſuis* Tyle *&* *Glacialis Inſula.*

Conradus Celtes
Itinere Balth:



Edinburgh, Printed by *John Reid*, in the Year, 1693.



AN

ESSAY

Concerning the

THULE

Of the

ANCIENTS

THere is no place oftner mentioned by the Ancients, than *Thule*, and yet it is much controverted what place it was; Some have attempted the diſcovery of it, but have gone wide of the marks the Ancients left concerning it, yet they ſeem all to agree that it was ſome place towards the North, and very many make it to be one of the *Britiſh* Iſles, and ſince *Conradus Celtes* ſayeth, it is encompaſſed with the *Orkney Iſles*: It will not be amiſs, to ſubjoyn to the deſcription of *Orkney*, this Eſſay concerning it.

Some derive the name *Thule* from the *Arabick* word *Tule*. which ſignifies farr off, and as it were with alluſion to this, the Po-

Poets uſually call it *ultima Thule*; But I rather preter the reaſon of the name given by the Learned *Bochartus*, who makes the ſame to be *Phœnician*, and affirmeth that it ſignifieth darkneſs in that language, *Chanan. Lib.* 1. *Chap:* 40. " *Thule proprie Syris umbræ ſunt* " *hinc tranſlata ſignificatione* Thule *pro tenebris* " *paſſim ſumitur, itaq; gezirat Thule erat inſula* " *tenebrarum, quod idem eſt ac tenebrecoſa, quod* " *nomen inſulæ ad extremum Septentrionem ſitæ* " *quam congruat nemo non videt.* Hence Tibullus *panygyrico ad meſſalam*, ſpeaking of the *Frigid Zone*, hath this,

Illic & denſa tellus abſconditur umbra.

And theſe places of *Homer odyſs.* 1: *verſ:* 25 κροσ ζοφον *ad caliginem*, & *Lib:* 3: *verſ:* 190 ου γαρ τι ϑλμεν οπυ ζοφος *neq; enim ſcimus ubi ſit caligo*, is by *Strabo* interpreted *neſcimus ubi ſit ſeptentrio.* We know not where the *North* is, *lib.* 1. *Pag:* 34. and *lib:* 10 *Pag:* 454: and 455. And conſonant to this *Statius*; *Lib.* 3. *Ad Claudiam Uxorem.*

Vel ſuper Heſperiæ vada caligantia Thules,

And *Lib* 4 *ad Marcellum.*

——*aut Nigræ Littora Thules.*

And indeed this derivation of the word carries more reaſon than any other they give it, and is an evident proof that the Ancients agreed in placing their *Thule* towards the North: we ſhall ſee next what Northern countrey they pitched on for it.

The Ancients ſeem moſt to agree, that *Thule* was one of theſe Iſles that are called *Britiſh*; *Strabo* one of the moſt Ancient, and the beſt of *Geographers* extant, ſayeth, *Pytheas Maſſilienſis, circa Thulen Britannicarum inſularum ſeptentrionaliſſimam ultima, ait eſſe.* Yet he himſelf maketh it nearer than *Pytheas* did; "*Ego autem illum ſeptentrionalem finem multo propius meridiem verſus exiſtimo, qui enim hodie terras perluſtrant ultra Hyberniam nihil poſſunt referre, quæ non longe verſus ſeptentrionem ante Britanniam jacet plane ferorum hominum domicilium, & propter frigus mali incolentium, ibi ergo finem conſtituendum cenſeo.* So that in his opinion, that which he calleth *Ireland* muſt be *Thule.*

Catullus, carmine ad furium, ſeems to be of this mind in theſe verſes,

Sive trans altas,
Gradietur Alpes,
Cæſaris viſens
Monumenta Magni,
Gallicum Rhenum
Horribileſq; &
Ultimoſq; Britannos.

Whither he or'e the *Alps* his way purſue,
The mighty *Cæſars* Monuments to view,
As *Gallique Rhine* and *Britons* that excell,

In fierceneſs who on the earths limits dwel.

And *Horrace carm: lib: 1 Ode: 35.*

Serves iturum Cæſarem.

In ultimos orbis Britannos.

Preſerve thou *Cæſar* ſafe, we thee implore,
Bound to the worlds remoteſt *Britons* ſhore:

And *Silius Italicus lib:* 1: in theſe verſes,

Cærulus haud aliter cum dimicat Incola Thules
Agmina falcifero circumvanit acta covino.

As *Thules* blew inhabitants ſurround,
Their foes with Chariots hookt and them confound.

For it appears from *Cæſars* commentaries that the blewiſh colour, and the fighting out of the hooked Chariots were in uſe with the Inhabitants of *Britan.* *Pliny* likewiſe ſeems to be of this opinion, for he treats of *Thule* in the ſame chapter, where he treats of the *Britiſh* Iſles, and *Tacitus, vita Agricolæ.* ſayeth when the *Roman* Navy ſail'd about *Britan, deſpecta eſt & Thule,* they ſaw *Thule.*

Ireland properly ſo called was the firſt of of the *Britiſh* Iſles that got the name *Thule*, as being the firſt the *Carthaginians* met with ſteering their courſe from *Cadiz* to the Weſt; And hence it is we find *Statius, Sylvæ tertia ad Claudiam Uxorem,* calls *Thule; Heſperia.*

—— *Et ſi gelidas iremmanſurus ad Arctos,*
Vel ſuper Heſperiæ vada caligantia Thules.

If I to the cold North go to abide,
Or on dark Seas that Weſtern *Thule* hide.

And

And seemeth to be the same said by *Aristotle*, to have been discovered by the *Carthaginians*, *lib: de mirabil: auscultat:* where he sayeth, " *extra columnas Herculis aiunt in mari à Carthaginiensibus insulam fertilem desertamque inventam, ut quæ am Sylvarum Copia quam fluminibus Navigationi idoneis abundet cum reliquis fructibus floreat vehementer, distans à continente plurimum dierum itinere*, &c And *Bochartus* confirms this by what he observes That the Ancient writer *Antonius Diogenes*, who wrote twenty four books of the strange things related of *Thule*, not long after the time of *Alexander* the Great, had his history from the *Ciparissian tables* digged at *Tyrus* out of the Tombs of *Mantinia* and *Dercilis*, who had gone from *Tyrus* to *Thule*, and had stayed some time there.

But though this be the first *Thule* discovered by the *Carthaginians*, yet it is not that mentioned by the *Roman* Writers, for they speak of the *Thule* in which the *Romans* were and made conquest of, but it is certain they were never in *Ireland* properly so called. That they were in *Thule* appears from these verses of *Statius. lib.* 5. *protreptrico ad Crispinum.*

Tu disce patrem quantusque nigrantem
Fluctibus occiduis fessoque Hyperione Thule
Intrarit, mandata gerens.

Learn

Learn from thy Sire how glorious he was
When he did with the Senates order pass,
Ore to dark *Thule* in th'Ocean that lyes west,
Where *Phœbus* gives his weary Horses rest.

Now the Father of *Crispinus*, to whom he writeth was *Bolanus*, the same *Vettius Bolanus*, who was Governour of *Britan*, under *Vitellius* (as *Tacitus*, *vita Agricolæ* informs us) which is yet more clearly proven by the following verses of the same Poet,

Quod si te Magno, tellus frenata parente
Accipiat.
Quanta Caledonios attollet Gloria campos,
Cum tibi Langævus referet truci's incola terra,
Hic suetus dare jura parens, hæc cespite turmas
Affari nitidas speculas, castellaque longe
Aspicis: ille dedit, cinxitq; hæc mœnia fessa
Belligeris, hæc dona Dei, hæc tela dicavit.
Cernis adhuc titulos: Hunc ipse vacantibus armis
Induit hunc Regi rapuit thoraca Britanno.

If thou received be by that far land,
Subdued by thy Conquering Fathers hand,
What Glory will it be, when thou hear'st tell,
By old fierce *Scots*, in *Caledon* that dwell,
How in this place, thy Sire us'd to give law
How there the *troops* they him *harranging* saw,
And point out *Towers*, & *Castles* throw the *land*
Which all Erected were by his Command.

These

Theſe walls he with a ditch did round encloſe
And to the Gods, he conſecrated thoſe,
Theſe Weapons he, did dedicate alſo,
As the Inſcriptions to be ſeen yet ſhow,
This Corſlet he in time of peace put on,
And this he from the *Britiſh King* had won.

The words *Caledonios* and *Trucis Incola Terræ*, do clearly ſhow, that by *Thule*, is meant the North part of *Britan*, which was then poſſeſſed by the *Pights*, deſigned by the name *Caledonios*, and the *Scots* deſigned *Trucis Incola Terræ*; The ſame epithet *Claudian* gives to the *Scots*; In theſe Verſes,

Venit & extremis legio prætenta Britannis,
Quæ Scoto *dat fræna truci.*

That Legion alſo, ſent fierce *Scots* to tame.

And of this North part of *Britan*, that Verſe of *Iuvenal*, is likewiſe to be underſtood.

De conducendo loquituo jam Rhetore Thule.

The beſt Expôſition of which is taken from *Tacitus*, *vita Agricolæ*, " *Jam vero* " *principum filios*, *liberalibus artibus erudire*, *&* " *ingenia* Britannorum, *ſtudiis* Gallorum, " *anteferre ut qui modo linguam* Romanam " *abnuebant*, *eloquentiam concupiſcerent.* Thus rendered

rendred by Sir *Henry Savil*; Moreover the Noblemens Sons he took and inſtructed in the liberal Sciences, preferring the Witts of the *Britons*, before the Students of *France*, as being now curious to attain the Eloquence of the *Roman Language*, whereas they lately rejected the Speech. After that our Attire grew to be in accompt, and the Gown much uſed among them.

Claudian does yet more particularly give the name of *Thule*, to the North part of *Britan*, while he ſpeaks *Carm: de 3° Conſul: Honorii*, of the great Exploits done there by *Theodoſius*, the Father of *Theodoſius* the Emperour, and Grand-Father of *Arcadius* and *Honorius*.

Facta tui numeravit avi quem littus aduſtæ,
Horreſcit Lybiæ; ratibuſque impervia Thule,
Ille leves Mauros, nec falſo nomine Pictos
Edomuit, Scotumque vago mucrone ſecutus,
Fregit Hyperboreas remis audacibus undas,
Et geminis fulgens utroque ſub axe trophæis,
Titbyos alternæ reſluas calcavit arenæ.

He did the deeds of thy Grandfather tell,
Before whoſe face the *Tawny-Moor* grew pale,
And *Thule*, where no ſhips could ever ſail,
He tamed the *Nimble Moors* & *painted Pights*,
With *brandiſh'd ſwords*, the *Scots* cloſs he purſu'd

And

And with *bold Oars* their *Northern ſeas* he broke
His Trophies thus under both Pol's he plac'd
Where ere the Ocean either ebb'd or flow'd.

And in theſe Lines.

Ille Caledoniis poſuit qui caſtra pruinis,
Qui medio Lybiæ ſub Caſſide pertulit æſtus
Terribilis Mauro, debellatorq; Britanni
Littoris, ac pariter Boreæ vaſtator & Auſtri
Quid rigor Æternus Cœli? quid fidera proſunt?
Ignotumq; fretum? Maduerunt Saxone fuſo
Orcades; incaluit Pictorum ſanguine Thule
Scotorum cumulos flevit glacialis Jerne.

In *Caledonian* froſts his Tents he Pitch'd,
And *Lybias* Scorching heat endured in field,
The *coal black Mores*, & *Britiſh* ſhore he taim'd;
And forced both the *South* and *North* to yeeld
What then avail'd cold clime? ſtrange Seas (and Stars?
When *Orkney* Iſles he dyed with *Saxon* gore,
Then *Thule* with the *Pictiſh* Blood grew hot,
Iey Strathern bemoand huge heaps of *Scot.*

Where by placing the *Mores* and *Britons* as the remoteſt People then known, and condeſcending upon the *Scots* and *Pights* as the inhabitants of *Thule* and *Jerne*, he demonſtrateth clearly, that *Thule* is the North part of the Iſle of Britan inhabited by the

Scots

Scots and *Pights*, for this *Jerne*, or as some read it *Hyberne*, can no wayes be understood of *Ireland* properly so called, First because *Ireland* can never deserve the Epithet *Glacialis*; since by the Testimony of the *Irish* Writers, the Snow and Ice continue not any time there: *Secondly*, the *Romans* were never in *Ireland*; while as it appears by the forementioned Verses, that *Theodosius* past our Firths of *Forth* and *Clide*, called by him *Hyperboreæ undæ*, and entered *Strathern*, which to this day bears the name *Jerne*, in which *Roman* Medals are found, and the *Roman* camps and *viæ Militares* are yet extant, the *vestige* of their being there beyond all doubt, and therefore is so to be understood in the same Poets lines upon *Stilico* employed in the *British* Wars.

Me quoque vicinis pereuntem gentibus inquit
Munivit Stilico, totam cum Scotus Jernam
Movit, & infesto Spumavit remige Thetis
Illius effectum curis, ne bella timerem
Scotica, nec Pictum tremerem.

Me to ill Neighbours long a prey expos'd,
With safety now hath *Stilico* enclos'd,
While that the *Scots* did all *Jerne* raise,
And *Forth* & *Clide* with *hostile rowers* foam'd,
By his great care it came to pass, that I
Fear'd neither *Scots* nor *Pights* ——

Now

Now *Thetis* in theſe verſes, and the *Undæ Hyperboreæ* in the verſes before mentioned cannot be underſtood of the Sea between *Scotland* and *Ireland*, for *Ireland* lyeth to the South of the *Roman* Province; and the ſituation of the *Scots* and *Pights* Countrey is to the North of it. For it was ſeparat by the two Firths of *Forth* and *Clide*, from the *Roman* Province, which does clearly ſhow it was to be underſtood of them, which is alſo imported, by the words *Hyperboreas Undas* and *Remis*; which cannot be underſtood of the *Iriſh* Sea, which is to the South of the *Roman* Province, and is very tempeſtuous, and cannot ſo well be paſt by Oares as the Firths of *Forth* and *Clide*, but the ſame Poet has put this without all doubt in theſe Verſes,

Venit & extremis legio prætenta Britannis,
Quæ Scoto dat fræna truci ferroque notatas
Perlegit exanimes Picto moriente figuras.

Hither the legion came in garilon oppos'd
To utmoſt *Britons*, that bridl'd the fierce *Scot*
And ſaw the *Pights whoſe bodys* are markt ore
With various figures dying in their Gore.

For were it to be underſtood of the *Iriſh* Sea, then the wall and the *Pretenturæ*, ſhould have been placed upon the *Scotiſh* ſhore, that

was

was over against *Ireland*, whereas they were placed over against that Countrey which is called *Strathiern* now, and is the true *Jerne* not only mentioned by *Claudian*, but likewise by *Juvenal*, in these verses.

——— *Arma quid ultra.*
Littora Juvernæ promovimus & modo captas,
Orcadas, & minima contentos nocte Britannos.

Where he directs us, to the situation of the *country* of the *Scots* & *Pights*, *Juverna* being the *country* of the *Scots*, which had been overrun in part by *Julius Agricola* Governor of *Britan* under *Domitian* the Emperour, who first entered the *Orcades*, and as *Tacitus* observeth *Despecta Thule*; saw the North part of the Countrey beyond *Jerne*, the Countrey of the *Pights* which lyes to the North of the Firth of *Forth*, and upon the *German* Sea, and is designed in these words, *minima contentos nocte* Britannos, which particularly relate to *Ross* and *Caithness*. And the Inhabitants of this *Juverna* and *Thule* are the very same the *Panygyrist Eumenius* speaks of in his Oration to *Constantine* the Great; where he sayeth, that the Nation of *Britan* in the time of *Cæsar*, was *rudis & soli Britanni Pictis modo, & Hibernis assueta hostibus seminudis*: had not been in use of war, but with these half naked

People

People of the *Britiſh* Soil, the *Pights* and the *Iriſh*, who for their looſe and ſhort garments, may yet be called half naked.

They were called *Hyberni*, as being at firſt a Colony from *Ireland*, and as poſſeſſing that Tract of the Iſle of *Britan*, which is called by the Ancient Writers, *Jerne glacialis*, and *Jerne* ſimply, and by the Writers of the midle age *Hybernia*, as you may ſee in the *Roman* Martyrology, *Martyrol. Roman. ſexto decem: Sanctus Beanus Epoſcopus Abrædoneæ in Hybernia:* Now never any *Iriſh* Writer yet could ſay, that in *Ireland* properly ſo called, there was a Town called *Aberdeen*, or a River called *Don.*

And that this part of *Britan* then poſſeſſed by the *Scots*, was called *Hybernia*, it is clear from the Teſtimony of venerable *Bede Eccleſiaſt: Hiſtor: lib:* 4. *cap:* 26. who names it *Hybernia*, in the beginning of the Chapter, and in the next page, calls the ſame Countrey *Scotia.*

'Tis certain that as the wall betwixt *Tyne* and *Solway Firth*, called *Murus Pictieus*, was built to exclude the *Pights*, ſo was that betwixt *Edinburgh* and *Dumbarton* Firth, to exclude the *Scots Highlanders*, and was deſigned firſt by *Agricolæ*, as appears from *Tacitus vitæ Agricolæ*, where he ſayeth, "*Nam Glotta & Bodotria diverſi maris æſtu per immenſum*
"*revecti*

" *revecti, Anguſto terrarum ſpatio dirimuntur,*
" *quod tum præſidiis firmabatur : Atque omnis*
" *propior ſinus tenebatur, ſummotis velut in aliam*
" *inſulam hoſtibus.* That is, for *Clide* and *Forth* two arms of two contrary Seas, ſhooting mightily unto the Land, were only divided aſunder by a narrow partition of ground, which paſſage was guarded and fortified then with Gariſons and Caſtles, ſo that the *Romans* were abſolute Lords of all on this ſide, having caſt out the Enemie as it were into another Iſland, and indeed as *Tacitus* remarks, *inventus in ipſa* Britania *terminus.* So the *Romans* made this indeed, the outmoſt limate of their Province, and gave the name *Britan* to that part of the Iſland within the *Roman* wall, which was built on this narrow neck of ground, between the two *Firths*, where the *Legion* markt in the *Inſcription* lay.

And hence it is, that the venerable *Bede* calleth thele People that dwelt beyond the wall, *Tranſmarinæ Gentes*, but explaineth himſelf thus, *Lib.* 1. *chap.* 12. " *Tranſmari-*
" *nas autem dicimus has Gentes, non quod extra*
" Britaniam *ſunt poſitæ, ſed quia à parte*
" Britonum *erant remotæ, duobus ſinibus maris,*
" *interjacentibus, quorum unus ab Orientali mari,*
" *alter ab Occidentali,* Britanniæ *Terras longe*
" *lateque irrumpit* : And a little before this, he tells who theſe *Tranſmarinæ Gentes* were, viz: *Scotorum à Circio*, that is, the *Scots* from

the *North-weſt*, And *Pictorum ab Aquilone*, and the *Picts* from the *North*. which *Airths* relate to that part of the Iſle without the *Roman* Province; for *Ireland* properly ſo called; cannot be ſaid to ly to the *North-weſt* of the *Roman* Province.

Now we will endeavour to ſhew that what *Juvenal* ſaith in the verſe;

——— *Arma quod ultra*
Littora Juvernæ promovimus, &c.

Is to be meant of that part, which is now called *Strathern*, and the reſt of *Pearthſhire*, and the *Weſt Highlands*, the countrey of the *Scots*, deſigned by *Bede à Circio*, which are truly ſo ſituate in reſpect of the *Roman* Province, and this we will make out from what we meet with in *Tacitus vita Agricola*, For firſt he ſayeth, *Tertius expeditionum annus novas Gentes apperuit, vaſtatus uſque ad Taum* (*Æſtuario nomen eſt*) *nationibus*: The third years expedition diſcovered People, they were not before acquainted with having overrun all them that were on this ſide *Tav*, which he deſcrives to be a Firth. It appears by this they were other People than thele he had to do with before, becauſe they are called *Novæ Gentes*. In the next place, he ſayes, The fourth Summer was ſpent in taking poſſeſſion of what they had overrun, And he obſerves in that Expedition the

ſmall

small *Isthmus*, or neck of Land, that keeped *Clyde* and *Forth* from meeting, and this was so secured by Garisons, *summotis velut in aliam insulam hostibus*, by this means the enemy were removed as it were into another Isle.

Now who will compare what we observed out of *Bede* of the *Gentes Transmarinæ*, beyond these two Fiths, will see clearly, that these *Novæ Gentes* were the *Scots*, and the *Pights*, the *Scots* in the Countrey towards the North-west, and the *Pights* in the Countrey North-East: But this is yet more confirmed by the accompt, that is given by *Tacitus* of the Action in the sixth Summer of *Agricola's* Government, *Ampla civitate trans Bodotriam sita*, being informed of a great People, that dwelt beyond *Forth*, now *Civitate* being in the singular, maketh it to be understod of the People that ly neareſt, that is the *Scots*, and *Quia motus universarum ultra gentium & infesta hostili exercitu itinera timebantur*, because he apprehended that all the People beyond *Forth*, would rise against him, and for that he feared that in his passage he might be attaqued by the Enemies Army, he tryed their Havens with his Fleet, where by the by there is a pretty Description of the nature & quality of the *country* in these words, "*Ac modo sylvarum & montium profunda, modo tempestatum ac fluctuum*

"*Adversa*

"*Adversa, hinc terra & hostis, hinc auctus Oceanus militari jactantia comparantur*, which very well agreeth to the woody and mountanous Countrey mixed with Valleys, that lyeth be North these Firths, and to the roughness of the firths when agitated with Winds, and a little below this he sayeth, *Ad manus & arma conversi Caledoniam Incolentes populi*, where he gives an accompt of a sore battel they had with the *Romans*, where *Agricola* was put to it, to make use of all his force and Art.

What is meant by *Caledonia*, he has told told us where he speaks of the figure of *Britan*, that what the Ancients said of it, agreed to that part upon this side of *Caledonia*; *sed immensum & enorme spatium procurrentium extremo jam littore terrarum, velut in cuneum tenuatur*, by which he makes *Caledonia* to contain all the rest of *Britan* to the North of these two firths and that they were different people, that were possessors of it, is clear by the words *Caledoniam incolentes populi*, By the *Caledoni* simply the *Romans* understood the *Pights* that inhabited the Countrey that lay upon the *German* sea, but as he mentions several people here, so he gives you afterwards the *Horresti* that is the *Highlanders*, the name of old given to the ancient *Scots*, and kept by their Descendents even to this day. And after

that he had given an accompt of the great preparations, he relates the great battel that he fought with these people the last Summer of his Government; where he tells us that he marched up to the *Grampion hills*, where the enemy were encamped, where any that will consider the ground they were encamped on and the way of their fighting; & the description he makes *Galgacus* their commander in chief give of them, may clearly see that they were different people, and no other then these that *Claudian* and other authors call *Scots*, and *Pights*.

But because it is contraverted by some late writers whether they were Natives of *Britan*, or *Irishes* who from *Ireland* properly so called invaded *Britan*, we shall adduce some arguments *Tacitus* furnishes us with to prove that they were Natives of the *British* soil, for in the accompt even of this last expedition, he says "*Nam Britanni nibil fracti pugnæ prioris* "*eventu, & ultionem aut servitium expectantes,* "*tandemque docti commune periculum concordia* "*propulsandum, legationibus & fœderibus om-* "*nium civitatum vires exciverant jamque supra* "*triginta millia armatorum aspiciebantur, & ad-* "*huc affluebat omnis juventus, & quibus eruda* "*& viridis senectus, clari bello, ac sua quisque* "*decora gestantes.* Where it is observable that although he cal'd them before *novæ Gentes*, yet here

here he cals them *Britanni* which was the name the *Romans* gave to all that inhabited this Island, but it was never given by any of the *Roman* authors to the inhabitants of *Ireland*; the words, *Legationibus & fœderibus omnium civitatum vires exciverant*, shows both *Scots* and *Pights* were united, and composed their Army: For the *Britans* spoken of here are the inhabitants of *Caledonia*, and so it is that *Tacitus* sayes, *Galgacus* designed them in these words, *Ostendamus quos sibi Caledonia viros seposuerit.* We find likewayes in our author several marks of distinction, first they are *gentes*, now the Criticks have observed that *gens* is a more general name, and so *universim Britanni, gens Britannorum appellantur*; *Natio* is a particular people, a part comprehended under the general name *gens*: So the *Caledonii*, the *Silures*, and the rest mentioned by *Ptolomee* in his Map of *Britan* are *nationes Britannicæ.* Our author also speaks of *civitates* which are not towns, but *Gentes* people, and the Clans that composed them, which lived under the command of their Chiefs: So *Galgacus* is described here, *inter plures duces virtute & genere præstans.* And these same names we find in *Ptolomee* are certainly the Ancient names of the Clans, but *Ptolomee* has been deficient, in that he has not set down the general names, the people designed

themselves by, which in this part of the Island was *Albanich* and *Peaghts*, that is *Albanenses* and *Picti*, which two names prove them to be the Ancient and first inhabitants of *Britan*, whom *Cæsar* designs in these words. *Interior pars ab iis incolitur qui se natos in insula dicunt*, which *Galgacus* owns here, speaking to his Army, he calls them *nobilissimi totius Britanniæ, eoq; in ipsis penetralibus siti.* The reason of the names *Albanich* and *Peaghts* is given in the *Scotia antiqua*, it is enough here to remember, that that part of the Island, which lay to the North of *Humber*, was by the confession of the learndest of the *British* Historians (as *Prisens defen: Hist: Britan: Pag. 60. Ranulph: Higden: Polychonic: Lib: 1 Luddus fragment:*) called *Albania*, and a part of the Countrey still caries the name of *broad Albine.*

Likewayes to clear that the same people he designed *Caledoniam incolentes populi*, were the same called *novæ gentes*, appears from this that follows, that when because of the summers being much spent, *Spargi bellum nequibat, in fines Horestiorum exercitum deduxit*, and a little after *ipse peditem atq; equites lento itinere quo novarum gentium animi ipsa transitus mora terrerentur in Hybernis locavit*, where they are called by the same name *novæ Gentes*, for *Tacitus* here relates, that because the Summer

mer was ſpent and that the war could not be extended againſt the *Pights* and *Scots* both, he marched with his Army to the borders of the *Scots* whom he calls *Horeſti*, that is *montani*, *Highlanders*, and indeed I have ſeen medals which were found in *Argyle ſhire*, & a great many have been found in ſeveral parts of *Perth ſhire*, beſides a great many *Roman* Camps are found there, you may ſee that in the ſixth year of his Government ſome of theſe Camps had been attaqued by ſome of theſe people that dwelt in *Caledonia*, for he ſayeth *Caſtella adorti metum ut provocantes addiderant*, and a little after it is ſaid of theſe ſame people, *Univerſi nonam Legionem ut maxime invalidam nocte aggreſſi inter ſomnum ac trepidationem cæſis vigiliis irrupere, jamque in ipſis caſtris pugnabant.* This Camp ſeems to be the very ſame which is yet extant near to *Airdoch*, the figure of which we have given. And the reaſon that I take it to have been one of *Agricolas* Camps, is for that our Author hath obſerved before, *Adnotabant periti non alium ducem opportunitates locorum ſapientius legiſſe, nullum ab* Agricola *poſitum caſtellum aut vi hoſtium expugnatum, aut pactione aut fuga deſertum*; For if we will conſider this ſame Camp we will find it has all the Advantages, *Vegetius de re militari lib.* 1. *Cap.* 22. ſayeth a Camp ſhould have "*Caſtella munienda ſunt*

"*loc*

" *loco tuto ubi & lignorum & pabuli & aquæ* " *suppetit copia, & si diutius commorandum sit,* " *loci salubritas eligenda est, cavendum autem ne* " *mons sit vicinus altior, qui ab adversariis captus* " *possit officere; considerandumque ne torrentibus* " *inundari consueverit campus.* This is indeed upon a *Heth* in a slopping ground, it hath the Water of *Kneck* runing clos by it, whose banks are so high, that it could not overflow, and there is wood near to it, and more has been about it, there is no Mountain nor considerable height so near, as that they could from thence annoy it. The same *Vigetius* adds *hæc castella sæpe structa instar oppidorum & in finibus imperii, & ubi perpetuæ stationes & Prætenturæ contra Hostem:* And the largeness of this Camp and its Situation upon the fronteir, makes this to be a *Prætentura.*

The *Prætorium* or the Generals Quarter is a large square, about a hundred paces every way, around it are five or six *Aggeres* or Dyks, and as many *Valla* or Ditches, the deepness of a mans height, there are Ports to all the four Quarters of the World, and to the East, there are several larger Squares, with their circumvallations continned for a good deal of way; to the West is the Bank of the water of *Kneck*, and five or six miles to the North-East of this, hard by the Wa-

ter

ter of *Earn*, near to *Inch Peferay* is a leſſer Camp, the *caſtrum exploratorum*, the Camp for the Advance Guard, and a little to the Eaſtward of this, beginneth the *Roman Via militaris*, called by the comon people, the *Street way*, this in ſome places is raiſed from the Ground almoſt a Mans height, and is ſo broad that Coaches may paſs by other with eaſe upon it, and this runneth towards the River of *Tay*, the length of which *Agricolas* devaſtations reached, as our Author, *Tacitus* tells us, *Tertius expeditionem annus novas gentes apperuit, vaſtatis uſque ad Taum (æſtuario nomen eſt) nationibus*: And the *Grampion hills* (towards which he marched when he fought the laſt Battel in the laſt year of his Government, *Ad montem Grampium pervenit, quem jam hoſtes inſederant*) are but a few miles diſtant from theſe Camps.

The inſcription we have given the figure of, was taken up out of the *Prætorium* of the *Prætentura* below which are ſome Caves, out of which ſome peeces of a ſheild were taken up, and ſeveral Medals have been found thereabout, I ſaw a Medal of Silver of *Antoninus Pius* found there. The people that live there report, that there was a large *Roman* Medal of Gold found there, great quantity of Silver ones have been found near to the Water of *Earn*, amongſt which I have

have seen some of *Domitian*, some of *Trajan*, & some of *Marcus Aurelius* the Philosopher. Besides whereas it is said that this man for whom this Sepulchral Inscription was made, was *Cohortis primæ Hispanorum*, if ye will look to the *notitia imperii Romani*, ye will find amongst the Troops placed *secundum lineam valli*, this *Cohors prima Hispanorum* was one. And it would seem the Poet *Claudian* had this very same *Prætentura* in his view in these Verses.

Venit & extremis legio prætenta Britannis,
Quæ Scoto *dat fræna truci*, &c.

And so without all question the *Glacialis Jerne* is meant of this very Countrey, which carries now the name *Strathiern*, where all these vestiges of the *Roman* Exploits are found, and these called *Scott* by *Claudian*, are the very same people *Eumenius* calleth *Hyberni soli Britanni*, the *Irish* of the *Brittish* soil: And *Tacitus* calleth *Horesti*, *Highlandmen* or *Braemen*, the name some of their Descendents yet bear, while on the contrary all Authors agree both Ancient and Modern, that the *Romans* were never in *Ireland* properly so called, and there are no *Roman* Camps, *viæ militares*, nor Coins to be seen there.

It remaineth now, that we show where the Countrey of the *Pights* was; who in the

Verse, I

Verſe laſt cited, are joyned with the *Scots*, and were not farr from this ſame *Prætenturæ*; Since the Poet immediatly ſubjoyns to,

——*Quæ Scoto dat frena Truci*
——*Ferroque notatas,*
Perlegit exanimes picto moriente figuras.

That this *Thule* was a part of *Britain*, the *Roman* Writers ſeem to be very clear, eſpecially *Silius Italicus*, *lib:* 17. in theſe Verſes.

Cerulus haud aliter cum demicat incola Thules,
Agmina falcifero circumvenit actа eovino.

For *Silius* here ſeemeth to have in his view what *Cæſar* in his Commentaries hath delivered of the *Britons* fighting in *Eſſedis*, and *Pomponius Mela lib:* 3: *Cap:* 6. where he ſpeaks of the *Britons* ſayeth *Dimicant non equitatu modo, aut pedite, verum & bigis & curribus* Gallice *armati covinos vocant, quorum falcatis axibus utuntur*; And our Author *Tacitus* tells us, that in the Battel fought with our Countreymen at the *Grampion* hill, *media covinarius & eques ſtrepitu ac diſcurſu complebat*, the midle of the field was filled with the clattering & running of Chariots and Horſe men. And a little below that, *Covinarii peditum ſe prælio miſcuere, & quanquam recentem terrorem intulerunt*; *Den ſis tamen hoſtium agminibus & inæqualibus locis hærebant*; In the mean time the Chariots mingled themſelves with the Battalions of the Foot-men, which, albeit they had lately

ſcaped

caused much terrour, yet they were now entangled in the thick ranks of the Enemies, & on uneven ground. These *Covinarii* are called by *Cæsar Essedarii*, so I think no body will doubt but that *Silius* the Poet by *Cerulus Incola Thules* meant the *Britans*. We also find an Appellation of the same Nature given to one of the Tribes of the *Scots*, by *Seneca in Ludo*, in these Verses

Ille Britannos,
Ultra noti
Littora ponti
Et Cæruleos
Scoto *Brigantas*
Dare *Romuleis*
Colla catenis
Jussit.

He to submit the *Britans* did compel,
Beyond the *known Oceans* bounds who dwell,
The *Irish Scots* who painted are with blew,
He forced to the *Roman Yoak* to bow.

For so it is read by *Joseph Scaliger* & by *Salmasius exercitat: Plinii in Solinum p:* 189. who came next in learning to him, upon these words, *Gelonis Agathirsi collimitantur cærulo picti: Et sane* Pictos *sive Agathirsos, haud aliter interpretari liceat, quam aliquo colore fucatos. sic* Picti *Scotobrigantes Senecæ, &* Picti, Populi Britanniæ *ab eadem ratione Dicti*; and it would seem by these Verses.

Et

Et cæruleos
Scoto *Brigantas*,
Dare Romuleis
Colla catenis
Juſſit.

That *Seneca*, who was contemporary with *Claudius*, had in his view, the Victory which *Oſtorius* under *Claudius* the Emperor governor of *Britan*, obtained over *Caratacus*, whole Hiſtory may be ſeen elegantly done by *Tacitus* in the 12*th* Book of his *Annals*, where he ſhows us that *Caratacus* being brought before *Claudius* in Chains, He had a brave diſcourſe to him, aud amongſt other things tells him, *Neq; dedignatus eſſes claris Majoribus ortum, pluribus gentibus imperantem fœdere pacis accipere*; and without doubt beſides the *Silures* mentioned there by *Tacitus*, theſe *Scoto brigantes* were of the number of theſe *Gentes*, he commanded. *Claudius* was ſo well pleaſed with his manly behaviour ſayeth *Tacitus* \ *Cæſar veniam ipſiq; & conjugi & Fratribus tribuit, atq; illi vinclis exſoluti.*

But to make it appear, which part of *Britan*, the *Thule* mentioned by the *Romans* was, it will be fit to ſee to which part of *Britan* the epithets attributed by the Authors to *Thule* do agree beſt. Firſt, then it was a remote part, *Ultima Thule*, as this was the remoteſt part of *Briten*, as *Tacitus* bringeth in

Galgacus

Galgacus expressing it; *Nos terrarum ac libertatis extremos recessus; ipsa ac finus famæ in hunc diem defendit.* Then *Thule* was towards the North, and so was this Countrey, with respect to the *Roman* province: And then thirdly, it might deserve the name *Thule*, because of it's obscure and dark Aspect: It being then all overgrown with Woods. 4*ly*, the length of the day is attributed to *Thule*, and upon this account it must be the Countrey to the North, and to the East of *Ierne* by these verses of *Juvenal.*

Ultima quid ultra
Litora promovimus Juvernæ & modo captas
Orcadas, & minima contentos nocte Britannos.

For it is of the North and East parts of *Britain*, the panagyrist sayeth *panegiri Constantino Constantii filio dicto; O! Fortunata & nunc omnibus beatior terris Britannia*, and a little below, *certe quod propter vitam diliguntur longissimi dies, & nullæ sine aliqua luce noctes, dum illa littorum extrema planities non attollit umbras, noctisq; metam cæli & siderum transitus aspectus, ut sol ipse qui nobis videtur occidere, ibi appareat præterire*, this same is applyed to the Northmost part of *Britain*, by *Tacitus*, where he sayeth of it "*Dictum spatiis ultra notitl orbis mensuram, nec* "*& clara & extrema Britanniæ parte brevis ut* "*finem atq; initium lucis exiguo discrimine inter-*

"*noscat*

"noſcas, *quod ſi nubes non officiant, aſpici per* "*noctem ſolis fulgorem, Nec oceidere & exſur-*"*gere, ſed tranſire affirmant.* That is, the length of the day is much above the meaſure of our climat, the nights are light, and in the furthermoſt part of the Iſland ſo ſhort, that between the going out and coming in of the day, the ſpace is hardly perceived, and when clouds do not hinder they affirm that the Sun ſhine is ſeen in the night, and that it neither ſetteth nor riſeth but paſſeth along.

The Ancient ſcholiaſt upon the word *Juverna* layeth, *Inverna Juberna inſula Britaniæ ſita in oceano mari aqua non longe ſunt triginta aliæ Orcades inſulæ quas Mela ſcribit*, and addeth, *in Hybernia enim quæ Britanniæ pars in ſolſtitio æſtivo nullo omnino nox, vel illa exigua & prope nulla eſt ait ergo minima nocte, ut pote in quo loco in univerſo imperio nox omnium breviſſima eſt.* The day is eighteen hours, and twenty five minutes, and as *Leſly* in his Hiſtory, obſerveth in *Roſs*, *Caithnes* and the *Orkney Iſles*, The nights for two moneths are ſo clear, that one may read and write in them, which is confirmed by theſe that live there.

Another propertie of *Thule* given by *Tacitus* is, that about it *mare pigrum & grave remigantibus perhibent.* Which agreeth indeed to the Sea upon the north eaſt part of *Scotland*, but not for the reaſon *Tacitus* gives, for

for want of winds, but because of the contrary tides which drive several ways, and stop not only Boats with oars, but ships under sail, that if any where, it may be there said of the Sea,

Nunc spumis ardentibus astra lacessit.
Et nunc Tartareis subsidet in ima Barathris.

Sometimes the foaming billows swell amain,
Then suddenly sink down as low again.

But *Thule* is most expressly described to be this very same countrey, we treat of, by *Conradus Celtes, itinere Balthico.*

——Oreadibus qua cincta suis Tyle & glacialis Insula.

Where *Tyle* and the *Icy* Islands found,
With their own *Orkney* Isles incompass round

This same Epithet *Claudian* gives to *Ierne*, where he calleth it *Glacialis Ierne*, and this *Thule* he makes to be encompassed *suis Oreadibus*, which Isles ly overagainst it, and a little after he gives it the like epithet to *mare pigrum*.

Et jam sub septem spectant vaga rostra Triones
Qua Tyle est rigidis insula cincta vadis.

Now from their ships the *Charlemain* they spy
Where *Tyle* in the rigid seas doth ly.

And afterwards he makes the *Oreades* to ly over against this *Thule*, and seems to have in his view the *skerries* and Weels in *Pightland Firth* in these lines.

Est Locus Arctoo qua se Germania tractu,
Claudit, & in rigidis Tyle ubi surgit aquis.

Quam juxta infames ſcopuli & petroſa vorago,
Aſperat undiſonis ſaxa pudenda vadis.
Orcadas has memorant dictas a nomine Græco.

There is a place lyes North where *Germanie*,
Is bounded, where ſtands in the rigid ſea
Thyle to which there do ly oppoſite,
Infamous rocks the Mariners that fright,
And a huge ſtony gulf which fiercely knocks
The roaring waves againſt the ragged rocks
Theſe if we may give credit unto fame.
Were called *Orcades* from a Greek Name.

But the cleareſt Teſtimony of all we owe into *Arngrimus Jonas*, *ſpecimen: Iſlandi hiſtoric: parte 2da*; *Pag:* 120, where he addueeth theſe verſes of *Fortunatus*,

Eloquii currente rota, penetravit ad Indos,
Ingeniumque potens ultima Thule colit.
Sol radio, hic verbo, generalia lumina fundunt
Montibus ille diem, mentibus iſte fidem,
Thrax, Italus, Scbyta Perſa, Indus, Geta,
Daca, Britannus,
Hujus in eloquio ſpem bibit, arma capit:

His eloquence did ſwiftly run all ore,
India and *Thule*, did his great wit adore,
Sun by his beams, he by the word Divine,
With equal light unto the World did ſhine,
One by his beams light to the World imparts
The other to the faith ſubdued hearts.
Italians, Scbythians, Perſians, Thracians, Gets, Indians, Dacians, and *Britans*

ſuch

Such hopes conceived of his eloquence,
That they took arms up, in the *Truths Defence.*

To which he addeth, *Ut inde vanus non sit, si quis dicat aut ipsam* Britanniam, *aut* Britanniæ *Insulam aliquam (cum* Plinio*) fuisse, & Virgilio & Fortunato per divisos toto orbe* Britannos, *& ultimam* Thulen *intellectam.* and below, " *in* " *gratiam Plinii & ipsius assectatorum, insularum* " Britannicarum *aliquam vel ultimam in ditione* " *Scoti (indifferenter de his loquendo)* Thulen " *statuentium, non dissimulabo habere eosdam his-* " *toriam. R. R. Norveg: Regum Norvegi-* " *corum sibi astipulantem, vita Magni Danico,* " *cognomento,* Barfod *Norvigice:* hinn brr fette " *quasi nudus pedem, celeberrimi Norvegorum.* " *Regis, is enim facta in Oreades, Hebrides, si-* " *mulque in Scotiam & Britanniam expeditione in-* " *sulam* Thule *attigit & subegit, (de quo Chroni-* " *con Dan, editum sic habet pag:* 393) der eff- " ter lagde hand (Kong Magnus tilden " o ftar eller Thile, och ind togden.

By all which I think it appeareth sufficiently that the Northeast part of Scotland, which *Severus* the Emperour and *Theodosius* the great infested with their armies, and in which as *Boethius* sheweth us *Roman medals* were found, is undoubtedly the *Thule* mentioned by the Roman Writers, and which if we will believe the learned *Arngrimus Jonas* was meant by *Ptolomee*, where he sayeth, *ubi nec*

omittendum

omittendum; quod parallelo XXI *per Thulen ducto, ab ipso* Ptolomeo, *latitudo respondeat* 55 *Gr. &* 36. So that our Country in these Ancient times, past under the name of *Thule* and *Hybernia:* and the *Hyberni* and *Picti incolæ Thules*, are the same People who were afterwards called *Scots*.

It seems indeed the name *Scot* at first was only proper to some Tribes of those People, who called themselves *Albanich*, such as the *Scoto Brigantes* mentioned by *Seneca*, and the *Scottedeni* in *Ptolomee*, which by the corruption of the Copies is now read *Ottedeni*; but they it seems were never called *Scots* generally, nor their Country *Scotia*, till after *Kenneth* the second, who subdued the *Pights*, and incorporate them into one Nation with our Ancestors; Yet *Wernerus Rolewinius*, *fasciculo temp.* saith, *sedente Lino Papa*, *Scotica gens oritur ex Pictis & Hybernis in Albania quæ est pars Angliæ*; which confirms very much what we have been proving all alongst, but makes the name to have been used generally sooner then it appeareth to us from our Historians.

I shall only add one remark more, and that is, that we need not have recourse, for the rise of the Name *Scot*, to the fabulous account of the *Monks*, who bring it from *Scota*, *Pharaohs* daughter married to *Gathelus*, since without that strain, if it be granted that

the Country was once called *Thule*, which in the *Phœnician* Language ſignifies *darkneſs*; we have a very clear reaſon for the name *Scotia*, which ſignifieth the ſame in the *Greek* Tongue, and it is very well known that it was uſual with the *Greeks*, (who next to the *Phœnicians* were the famouſeſt Navigators) not only to retain the *Phœnician* name of the place, but likewiſe to give one in their own language of the ſame import; And ſince the Learned *Bochartus* has very ingenuouſly deduced the *Greek* name of the whole Iſland Βρεττανικὴ, from *Bratanack* and *Barat anac* in the *Phœnician* Tongue, which ſignifies a *Land of Tinn*, which the *Greeks* not only inflected to their own termination, but likewiſe called the *Britiſh* Iſles Κασσιτερίδες, that is, *Lands of Tinn*, which is the ſignification of the *Phœnician* and *Greek* names: We may take the ſame liberty to derive the *Greek* name *Scotia*, from the *Phœnician Thule*; This is ſo fully treated in the *Scotia Antiqua*, I need ſay no more.

FINIS.

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FINIS.

A

DESCRIPTION

Of the ISLES of

ORKNEY;

By Master JAMES WALLACE, *late Minister of* KIRKWALL, *Published after his Death by his Son.*

To which is added, An Essay concerning the *Thule* of the *Ancients*.



EDINBURGH,
Printed by John Reid, *In the Year*
M. DC. XCIII.

Bibliothec. Ashmoleana dedit V. Clariss. J. Aubrey.

TO

The Much Honoured

SIR ROBERT SIBBALD

Of KIPPS,

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE, &c.

Honoured Sir,

WHen this Peece was to be publiſhed, I did not long debate with my ſelf, to whom this Addreſs was to be made; For to whom is the Deſcription of a particular Countrey ſo due, as to one to whom Our Glorious Monarch *Charles* the ſecond, committed the Deſcription of the whole Kingdom. It was in Compliance with your Deſire (when you were Compoſing your *Atlas*) that my Father made this *D*eſcription, to give you an Account of that Countrey; And I have been bold to publiſh it under Your Protection,

being alſo glad of ſuch an Opportunitie, to acknowledge how much I am obliged to you, for theſe many Acts of Kindneſs and Favour, which you have undeſervedly beſtowed on me; But ſince all I can ſay, either of the Vaſt Enduements of Your Mind, or of the particular Engagements I ly under to Honour and Serve you, muſt needs fall ſhort of my Senſe of both; And what is juſt to be ſaid, is not fit for me to expreſs, knowing well how unpleaſant the leaſt appearances of Flattery are to Your Ingenuous Soul; Yet I think it but a peece of Common Juſtice to let the World know the due Reſentments I have of your Extraordinary Favours, and that I wait only for an Opportunity to demonſtrate how much I am

Edinburgh, October 16 1693.

Honoured Sir,
Your very Humble Servant,

JAMES WALLACE.

To the READER.

THE *Author of the following Deſcription of the* Orkney *Iſles, was the Reverend Mr.* James Wallace *Miniſter of* Kirkwall, *the only Town in theſe Iſles; a Man who from his younger years applyed himſelf with great pains, to cultivate his mind with all ſort of Learning, and was a great Proficient therein, eſpeciallie he attained great skill in* Philoſophy, Theology, Hiſtory, *and the* Mathematicks, *which Studies he proſecuted as long as he lived; And deſigned to improve the Talents GOD bountifullie beſtowed upon him, for the good of the Publick: the Care and Diligence he uſed in the Office of the Miniſtrie, his Charitie and Concern for the Souls of thoſe entruſted to him, did gain him not only the Love and Eſteem of thoſe of his own Charge, but even of the whole Countrie, who ſtill conſerve a Honourable Memorie of him; And as a ſpecimen of his other Knowledge, he drew this* Deſcription, *with a large Map of theſe Iſles, both which he ſent ſeveral years before his death to* Sir Robert Sibbald, *(Geographer to King* Charles *the Second of happie Memory)*

with

with whom he kept a constant correspondence by Letters; Besides the Description *then sent several Relations concerning these Isles, are insert in this now published out of these Letters by his Son: who has also brought down the account from the then Writting to his death. He furnished likewise several Memoirs for the* Description *of* Zetland, *entertaining a correspondence with the Reverend* Ministers *there; Both he and his Brethren were much encouraged by the Right Reverend* Master Murdoch Mackenzie *Bishop of these Isles; who besides his other good Works, signalized himself in this. The Author designed a compleat Historie of all Remarkable in these isles, from the first planting of them, and had prepared some materials his Son hath for that work, but was Anno* 1688 *unfortunatelie taken away in a Fever in the flower of his Age, to the regrate of all that knew him. He left behind him in* Manuscripts, *besides Sermons, and manie Miscellany peeces, the Harmonie of the* Evangelists *in Folio, two large Quarto's of common Places, extracted, (with his Observations) from what he collected in his Reading; A* Treatise *of the Ancient and Modern Church Discipline; And was writing a Refutation of some* Popish tenets, *when his last sickness seized on him. He was a man remarkable for his Ingenuitie and Veracitie; And in what is now published, wrote nothing but what he had seen himself, or had the testimonie of undoubted Witnesses, who either saw or were well informed of the*

parti-

particulars, so that Credit may be given to what is adduced. If this Specimen be well received by the Publick, they may expect a full Description of the Isles of Zetland, *and of the* West *Isles, and these that ly in* Edinburgh *Firth, with the Maps of the most considerable of them. There is adjoined to this* An Essay about the Thule of the Ancients, *Because as most Authors agree, it was one of the* British Isles: *So some averr the* Orkney Isles *lay about it; By this some light is given to the Ancient Historie of* Scotland; *And some passages of the* Roman Authors *are explained, and set in better light; All which is submitted to the judgement of the Candid Reader.*

FAREWELL.

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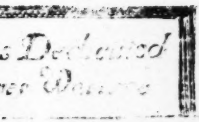
FAREWELL.


Longitud. 22. 11.
Latitud 59 2
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FRETUM PICTORUM
Highland Isles
CATHNESIE
HOY
Graimsay
Braiker
Stenness
Skeall
Bisa
Loch
Inhallo
Roysa
Egilsha
FIRTH
Kirkwall
Scapa
Swanna
Wars
Holta
PO
MAINLAND
WESTRA
Fitt Sound
SOUTH RONALSH
BURRA
Copiysha Hoyse
Dirness
STRONZA
SCHAPINSHA
FIRTH
Ness
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This Mapp of the Orkney Illands Do
to Sr Robert Sibbald of Kipps MD by Mr James
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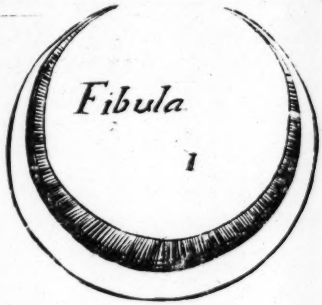
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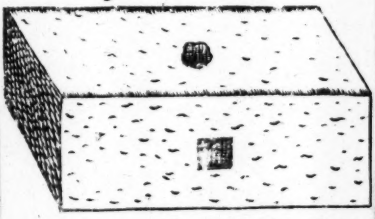
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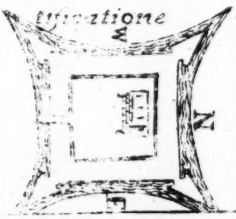
Duayſie Stone 2



Urna Sepulchralis 3



For [illegible]ſtione 4



THE Deſcription of ORKNEY.

CHAPTER I.

The Nature of the Country, and Chief Products thereof.



THIS Country in Our *Engliſh* Language is called *Orkney*, By the *Latines* both Ancient and Modern, it is called *Orcades*, And ſo it is called by the *Dutch*, but they pronounce the penult long. *Mela* writes it with an Aſpiration *Orchades*; The *Iriſh* call it *Arku*. What is the reaſon of the Name is not condeſcended upon, but its like that the *Latine* name is either from *Orcas*, which *Ptolome* makes to be a Promontorie of *Caithneſs*, over againſt this Countrey; or from

ſome Sept of the *Pights*, who firſt planted it, and who from ſome ſimilitude with the name whereby they called themſelves, might be ſo called by the *Romans*. As for the *Engliſh* name, *Orkney*, it may be derived from ſome Pictiſh Prince, as *Erick*, or *Orkenwald*, or ſome other that has been famous in the firſt Plantation, or might have gotten the name from ſome remarkable title, which the firſt planters the *Pights* took to themſelves; for *Pights* properly ſignifies in the Teutonick Tongue, Fighters; And *Orkney* may come from *Ear*, which ſignifies *Honour*, and *Kyn*, which ſignifies an *Off-ſpring*, as if the Name were intended to ſhew that they were an Off-Spring or Generation of Honour: Some derive the word alſo from *Orkano* or *Horricano*, in reguard of the ſtrong, and Impetuous Winds, that ſome time blow in this Country.

q. mel.

It lyes in the Northern temperate Zone, and thirteenth climate; The longitude being Twenty-two degrees, and Eleven Minutes, and Latitude Fifty-nine degrees two Minutes, the Compaſs variating Eight degrees; So that the length of the longeſt day will be Eighteen Hours and ſome odd Minutes, yet notwithſtanding that this Country is ſo farr removed to the North: The Air is temperate and wholſome, agreeing well with

with theſe conſtitutions that can endure a little cold. It is true, that for a great part of *June* it will be ſo clear at midnight that we may read a Letter in our Chamber: Yet it cannot be true what *Blaeu* reports, that from the Hill of *Hoy*, a man may ſee the Sun at Midnight, for it cannot be the true Body of the Sun that is ſeen, but only the Image of it Refracted thorow the Sea, or ſome Watery Cloud about the Horizon, ſeeing it muſt be as farr depreſſed under our Horizon at *June* as it is elevated above it in *December*, which is by many degrees, for from that hill, the Sun is to be ſeen in the ſhorteſt day of *December* above five hours and an half.

The Air and Clouds here, by the Operation of the Sun do ſometime generate ſeveral things, for Inſtance ſome few Years hence ſome Fiſher-men Fiſhing half a League from Land, over againſt *Copinſha*, in a fair Day there fell down from the Air a Stone about the bigneſs of a Foot-Ball, which fell in the midſt of the Boat, and Sprung a Lake in it, to the great hazard of the lives of the men that were in it, which could be no other but ſome ſubſtance generated in the Clouds. The Stone was like condenſed or Petrified Clay, and was a long time in the Cuſtody of Captain *Andrew Dick*, at that time Stewart of the Country.

kelwyth

Here our Winters are generally more subject to Rain than Snow: nor does the Frost and Snow continue so long here as in other parts of *Scotland*; But the Winds in the mean time will often blow very Boysterously; Sometimes the Rains descends not by drops but by Spouts of Water, as if whole Clouds fell down at once. About Four Year ago, after a great thunder in the Moneth of *June*, there fell a great Flake of Ice, more then a Foot thick.

qr keinogh

This Countrey is wholly surrounded with the Sea, having *Pightland-Firth* on the South, the *Deucaledonian* Ocean on the West, the Sea that divides it from *Zetland* on the North, and the *German* Sea on the East, *Zetland* stands North East, and be East from *Orkney*, and from the Start in *Sanda* to *Swinburgh head*, the most Southerlie point in *Zetland*, will be about eighteen Leagues, where there is nothing but Sea all the way save *Fair-Isle*, which lies within eight Leagues of *Swinburgh head*.

Pightland-Firth, which divides this Countrey from *Caithness*, is in breadth from *Duncansbay* to the neareſt point of *South Ronalsha* in *Orkney* about twelve Miles, in it are many Tides (to the number of twenty four) which run with such an impetuous current, that a Ship under Sail, is no more able

able to make way against the Tide, then if it were hindered by a *Remora*; which I conceive is the cause, why some have said that they have found the *Remora* in these Seas.

In this Firth, about two Miles from the Coast of *Caithness* lyes *Stroma*, a little Isle, but Pleasant and Fruitful, and because of its Vicinity to *Caithness*, and its being still under the Jurisdictions of the Lords of that Country, it is not counted as one of the Isles of *Orkney*. On the North side of this Isle, is a part of the Firth called the *Swelchee of Stroma*; And at the West end of it, betwixt it and *Mey* in *Caithness*, there is another part of it, called the *Merrie Men of Mey*, both which are very dangerous.

The Sea Ebbs and Flows here as in other places, yet there are some *Phænomena*, the Reason of which cannot easily be found out, as in the Isle of *Sanda*, it Flows two hours sooner on the West-side, than it does on the East-side; And in *North Faira* (which lies betwixt *Eda* & *Westra*) the Sea Ebbs nine hours and Flows but three. And at *Hammoness* in *Sanda*, both Ebb and Flood runs one way, except at the beginning of a quick stream, when for two or three hours the Floud runs South.

The Sea here is very Turbulent in a Storm, and as Pleasant in a Calm, The Tide